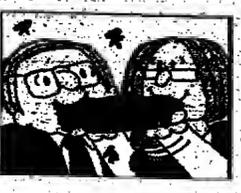


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Eskin held in foiled Temple Mount pig plot

By ELLI WOHL-GELERTER and Debra Spigol

Two Jewish extremists arrested a week ago were planning to throw a pig's head onto the Temple Mount during the upcoming month of Ramadan, to ignite violence between Arabs and Jews and disrupt the peace process.

Avigdor Eskin and Haim Pakovitch were remanded on Friday for an additional six days by the Jerusalem District Court.

A gag order on details of the case had been imposed since they were arrested last Sunday, but was partially lifted after Moslem noon prayers on Friday.

A third man, Harel Hershtik, who is already under arrest in connection with an unrelated case, is also suspected of being involved, said Jerusalem police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby.

"If this plan would have been put into action, I think a lot of blood, both Jewish and Arab, would have been spilled on the

Temple Mount," said Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday promised to crack down on Jewish right-wing extremists trying to provoke religious conflict with the Moslems.

"The Israeli government is taking determined action against lawbreakers trying to offend Moslem religious feelings and the government will take forceful action against anyone who tries to instigate a religious war,"

Netanyahu said in a statement. The statement did not specify what action Netanyahu planned.

Eskin's lawyer, Naftali Wurzbarger, said the gag order imposed by the court barred him from discussing the case, but he described the affair as "a tempest in a teacup."

Eskin's wife, Esther, denied her husband had planned provocations and said he was a victim of "government terrorism."

The Palestinian Authority called on Israel to confiscate

weapons from Jewish settlers, in a statement issued following their weekly cabinet meeting on Friday.

"Suppressing settlers, halting their daily attacks, and confiscating their licensed and unlicensed weapons is an urgent necessity to guarantee that these extremists will not carry out an aggressive, crazy action to destroy the peace process," the statement said.

Hassan Tahboub, the Palestinian minister of religious

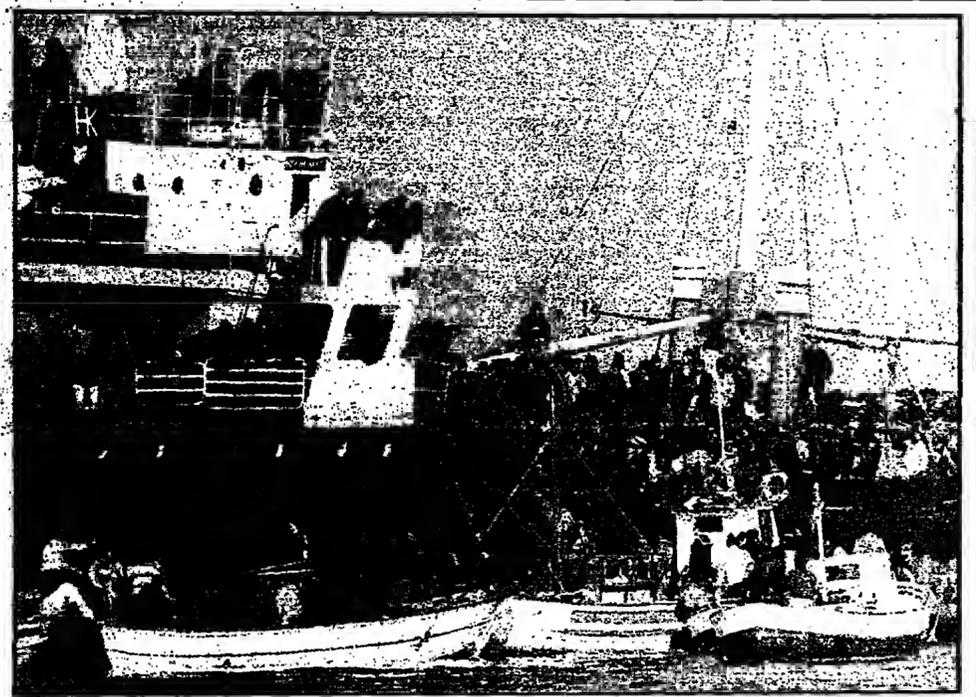
affairs, said he appreciates the efforts of the Israel Police, but remains concerned.

"There are still a lot of people out there who have the same intentions," Tahboub said.

In June, Tatiana Susskin pasted leaflets on Arab shop windows in Hebron depicting the Prophet Mohammed as a pig stamping on the Koran. The incident triggered Moslem protests worldwide.



See PIG, Page 6



Drama at sea
Fishing boats cluster around the Turkish registered 'Ararat' yesterday to rescue some 750 Kurdish, Turkish, and Iraqi illegal immigrants, after the ship ran aground off the Italian coast in rough seas. Story, Page 5.

Budget approval still in doubt

Neeman, Netanyahu meet in late-night strategy session

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu met with Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman last night to organize a strategy to get the 1998 state budget passed and keep the government in power.

Over the weekend it became increasingly clear that the budget would not pass a third reading without substantial changes, as some 20 coalition MKs said they oppose all or part of the budget arrangements bill. After two days of speeches and votes on the bill in the Knesset plenum, the debate returns this morning to the Knesset Finance Committee.

It is still unclear whether the budget will be approved by its December 31 deadline.

Following two coalition defeats in voting on Thursday night, Finance Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) asked that the bill be returned to the committee. This was an embarrassment

BUDGET '98
By DAVID HARRIS

for the government and meant a further delay in passing the budget.

Last week the committee had to delay voting on the bill for two days while the government attempted to gain a coalition majority. Once the bill is approved by the Finance Committee it will be discussed by the House Committee before being put again before the plenum.

The Likud hopes that the proposed budget will be returned to the plenum by this afternoon, while the opposition is expected to filibuster in committee, and is also expected to resubmit its 15,000 objections and proposed amendments.

Meanwhile, there appears to have been little progress this

weekend in government attempts to cajole coalition MKs into voting with the Treasury proposals, which include a NIS 2.3 billion cut in public expenditure.

"The budget will be voted on this week," coalition spokesman Shehrit said last night. Shehrit rejected Labor Party chief economics spokesman Avraham Shohat's claim that the budget would not be passed this year. "It's wishful thinking on his part," added Shehrit. "What Labor must do is reduce its number of objections to the bill so we can make progress. In all the years that we were in opposition we abided by such agreements. If they don't do it now we'll have to enforce Knesset regulations fixing the exact times of voting."

But a senior Treasury official asserted last night: "Nobody here knows what's going on, not even the prime minister."

See BUDGET, Page 6

Hospital strike to resume today

By JUDY SEGEL and Ron

Following the breakdown in negotiations late last night between the Israel Medical Association and the Treasury over proposed reforms to the health system, the strike that paralyzed public hospitals on Thursday is to resume today, Israel Radio reported.

IMA chairman Dr. Yoram Blachar said that in Friday's talks, the Treasury had refused to consider any of the doctors' demands, and he saw no reason to expect any progress last night.

The doctors are demanding that the proposals to drastically change the health system be removed from the economic arrangements bill and be dealt with separately from the national budget.

The two sides are due to appear this morning in the Tel Aviv District Labor Court to report on the talks, which brought a halt on Thursday to a one-day strike in all the public

hospitals.

The Treasury wants the basket of health services to be set by each health fund, thus increasing "competition," and demands that residents pay extra charges for various treatments and medications.

While the poor, elderly, and chronically ill would, under revisions of the proposals, be exempt, the state has not offered compensation to the health funds, which would, under the proposed changes, be eager to discourage these sectors from remaining as members.

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza will today be joined by his predecessors - Ephraim Sneh and Haim Ramon (Labor) and Ehud Olmert (Likud), to speak out against the Treasury's plans to eliminate the mandatory basket of services.

Although Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu had quietly backed Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman in his fight for changes, he conceded to Foreign Minister

David Levy that he did not see how the arrangements bill could be passed with Neeman's proposals.

Matza last night said the health system and the poor would not be upset if Neeman resigned. If he, Matza, resigned, the health system would be weakened, "but if someone else resigned, I have no doubt the system will be strengthened."

He said he would not support the proposed budget, because he could not stand by and watch "the health system collapse, and a few smug activists celebrating a victory."

Matza said he had ordered the health funds to stop their wasteful advertising and also had stopped what he called Kipat Holim Clalit's "megalomaniac" construction.

He also attacked Shas and said that party is trying to take control of the health system because it has interests in the health funds. He praised Foreign Minister David Levy for fighting on social issues, calling him "righteous."

The end-of-December budget rite is an annual Israeli tradition, involving daredevil acrobatics and death-defying brinkmanship. Much entertainment and cliff-hanging suspense is guaranteed.

But the onlookers always know that in the end all the intrepid players will prudently stop just at the edge of the precipice, the budget will pass, and the embattled government will be saved from a calamity just in the nick of time.

It may be that this year's ritual will end this way, too. But so far, the show is far more breathtaking than the usual fare, along with a few farcical elements and subplot complications, which willy-nilly could lead the whole cast recklessly tumbling off the brink.

The first complication is that the prime minister has been rendered the closest thing to a national punching bag. Binyamin Netanyahu has been so demonized by the opposition and a hostile press that he has become a soft touch in his own coalition. It is easy to pressure him and easier yet to threaten him.

In politics the thing to do is to hit a man when he is down, because this is when the greatest gains are to be had. His bruised image has left Netanyahu with what is probably the most disloyal coalition ever, despite the fact that it is large and stable on paper. Its recent string of failures in the Knesset is a case in point.

The second complication is the intertwining of two major crises - the budget and redeployment. MK Ze'ev Begin had declared long ago that the issues cannot be separated and that he will use the budget to either bring down the government or force Netanyahu to declare that he will cede no more territory. Begin may be

Government at the precipice

friendly force, as far as the prime minister reckons.

Personal rancor also makes it all the more difficult to reason or reach any compromise with someone like Begin. Their first conversation in a long while on Friday proved this amply. It ended without any progress.

But even if Netanyahu could surmount all the obstacles his own coalition places in his way, he might be felled by the schlemiel factor. What happened in the Knesset last Thursday,

ANALYSIS
By SARAH HONIG

As a result, more and more outrageous demands are raised to outdo the competitors. Thus Levy has demanded free higher education for all development-area dwellers, a sector which includes more than a few well-to-do groups.

The Likud, too, finds its power base in development towns challenged by all this, which is why Health Minister Yehoshua Matza is accusing Shas of seeking to usurp his portfolio and dump him.

Such a snarl of conflicting interests makes it all the more difficult for Netanyahu to satisfy everyone and back his beleaguered free-enterprise finance minister, who has no troops whatever in the Knesset.

Despite all the above, the ancient motive of unfinished personal business cannot be dismissed, either. Had Levy been free of any smoldering personal resentment of Netanyahu, he might have been a little less outspoken and extreme in his ultimatums. Geshet is certainly not a

when MK Avraham Ravitz (UTJ) sent an entire bill back to committee due to a slip of the tongue, instead of sending just the clause in question, is a cock-up the likes of which could undo all of Netanyahu's efforts. The fact that the Knesset Speaker opposed the government on this is another unforeseen factor, and, from the government's point of view, an avoidable disaster.

The coalition is simply too jittery and accident prone on the dangerous precipice. Rather than coming to a halt at the brink, it may end up dropping into the abyss because it slipped on a banana peel.

After 85 years, Oreos go kosher

NEW YORK (AP) - Oreo-ve-co! For the first time, Jews

who keep kosher can twist, lick, and dunk the ever-popular Oreo cookie, the Orthodox Union said last week.

The group, which represents Orthodox Jewish congregations around the US and is the country's largest kashrut supervision organization, said Oreos, Chips Ahoy chocolate chip cookies, and other snack products from Nabisco now carry its "OU" kosher seal of approval.

"With Nabisco under the OU certification, kosher consumers

everywhere can rest assured that they need not sacrifice kashrut standards in order to get great taste," the group's senior rabbinic coordinator, Rabbi Eliyahu Safran, said in a statement.

The Oreo, with chocolate wafers sandwiched around a cream filling, celebrated its 35th birthday this year.

The OU kosher symbol can be found on over 200,000 products in 36 countries, according to the Orthodox Union.

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NEWS

in brief

Peace bicyclists arrive in Jordan

Some 700 teenagers from United Kibbutz Movement kibbutzim pedaled their bicycles across the Israeli-Jordanian border at the Arava crossing yesterday in a bid to strengthen the peace process between the two states, the Israeli Embassy in Amman said.

The 18-year-old youths cycled through the port of Akaba and down the Red Sea coast to the Saudi border at Ad Dura, where one threw a bottle into the sea inviting Saudi Arabia's King Fahd to "follow the example of Jordan" and join the peace process. They plan to cycle to the ancient town of Petra and the desert settlement of Wadi Rum before returning to Israel late today. AP

Ethiopian official flown in for surgery

The deputy speaker of the Ethiopian parliament, Mohammed Hiddig, will undergo surgery today at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital for road accident injuries suffered several days ago.

Hiddig, a 41-year-old Somali, was flown in on Friday after Ethiopia's Transport Minister recommended Shaare Zedek as the hospital where he was treated for wounds from an assassination attempt a year and a half ago.

Dr. Menachem Yitzhaki, who heads the orthopedic surgery department, diagnosed fractures in his hip and shoulder and decided surgery was necessary. Judy Stegel

Science minister unhurt in car accident

Science Minister Michael Eitan's Volvo overturned last night near Beit Hanania, in the Zichron Ya'acov area. Eitan, who was alone in the car, was not hurt, but the car was damaged.

Police said that Eitan apparently missed a spot where he should have veered right, and slammed into an old railroad barrier, which is why the car flipped over. Tim

Solidarity for secularists in Pardess Hanna

Hundreds of secularists from throughout the country held a solidarity demonstration yesterday in the secular Neveh Rotem neighborhood of Pardess Hanna, calling for the removal of an ultra-religious section going up in its midst. MKs Yossi Sarid (Meretz) and Yehuda Harel (The Third Way) attended, as did representatives of the Reform Movement and civil rights groups. Sarid said "there has been an increase of incidents of religious coercion and aggressiveness that requires an organized civil counter-response." Residents are awaiting a ruling by the Haifa District Court. Tim

Habad hanukkah vandalized in Tel Aviv

A Habad hanukkah in Dizengoff Square was vandalized over Shabbat. The glass encasing the candles was smashed and some other parts, including the hanukkah's base, were also damaged.

Habad members said they planned to lodge a formal complaint today with Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani.

"Just as the Greeks failed, despite all their actions, to extinguish the lights at the holy Temple, thus we also will not surrender to the vandals," said Rabbi Gerlitzy, the Habad chairman in Tel Aviv. Tim

Boar hunter killed in shooting accident

Boar hunter Elias Abu Nu'ara, 35, of Reina village near Nazareth, was accidentally shot to death while on a hunting trip in the Golan Heights on Friday.

The incident happened while a group of hunters was chasing a wild boar on Mt. Avital, and one of their hunting rifles apparently fired accidentally, shooting Nu'ara.

The five men hunting with him were detained on suspicion of causing death by negligence. They appeared before a special session of Acre Magistrate's Court last night for a remand hearing. Police are investigating. David Rudge

Border Police stoned in Hebron

Several dozen Palestinian youths stoned a Border Police jeep yesterday when it inadvertently entered the Palestinian-controlled section of Hebron. The IDF Spokesman said the army is investigating the reason for the jeep entering the area where joint Palestinian-Israeli patrols usually take place. There were no injuries but the vehicle was damaged.

Under the Hebron Accord, IDF and Israeli vehicles are permitted to drive into the Palestinian-controlled section but IDF soldiers avoid doing so. Israeli citizens wishing to travel through that section must coordinate with the security authorities beforehand. Margot Dudkevitch

Emanah World Religious Zionist Women's Organization

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EVA ADELMAN ע"ה

A woman of valor

Her sterling qualities of mind and spirit led and inspired our organization from its inception.

Emanah chaverot in Israel and throughout the world extend our heartfelt condolences to her husband Milton, sister Leah Gross, sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren.

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We regret to announce the passing of

RUTH BARATZ

née Levy

Beloved mother, grandmother and sister

The funeral will be held today, Sunday, December 28, 1997, at 12 noon, at the Segula Cemetery, Petah Tikva.

Children: Sue and Oren Baratz
Grandchildren: Adam, Guy, Michael and Metan
Brother: Joshua Levy of Johannesburg, South Africa
Shiva: Rehov Shimoni 10, Neveh Oz, Petah Tikva

The management and staff of
The Jerusalem Post

express their condolences to their colleague and friend Fares Michael over the loss of his

Mother

Theresa Issa Khoury

Gov't rejects Arafat proposal for international buffer force

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's proposal to have an international force stationed in West Bank areas Israel deems vital to its security was rejected yesterday as a non-starter unworthy of consideration.

"It's not a new idea," said David Bar-Ilan, communications adviser to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "Arafat has put it for-

ward several times in past years. It's just as unacceptable now as it was then."

Netanyahu and most of his ministers plan a second tour of the areas in question today. Today's trip will be overland rather than airborne and will focus on the withdrawal map proposed by infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon.

Sources said they assumed that Foreign Minister David Levy would join the party this time,

although this could not be confirmed by the ministry's spokesman, Aviv Shir-On.

But Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan, who boycotted last Tuesday's helicopter tour, will stay away from the vehicular trip as well. As a former military chief of staff, Eitan said he is thoroughly familiar with the terrain.

The PA leader, who won his cabinet's endorsement of his suggestion Friday that foreign troops

patrol the strategic areas of the West Bank and thereby enable the IDF to evacuate them, intends to present the idea to President Clinton next month, his top negotiator, Saeb Erekat, said.

But Bar-Ilan dismissed it unequivocally. "Only Israelis will defend Israel," he said.

Arafat proposed his scheme to US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright when they met in Europe. It calls for deploying an interna-

tional contingent along the border between Israel and the PA or whatever other Palestinian political entity is formed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He and Netanyahu are expected to meet separately with Clinton at the White House next month, but no dates have been set.

Erekat said Arafat's plan was part of a more comprehensive formula which he has been developing in a bid to break a 10-month deadlock in the peace process.



A Hamas youth waves a toy pistol in the air at a rally attended by tens of thousands in a Gaza stadium Friday, marking the movement's 10th anniversary. (AP)

Hamas: PA-Israeli security document 'declaration of war'

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Hamas leader Dr. Abdul Aziz Rantisi on Friday denounced the security document being drawn up by Israel, the Palestinian Authority and the US, which urges the routing of terrorist infrastructure, as a "declaration of war against the Palestinian people."

Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the Hamas founder, vowed for his part to continue the holy war against Israel and urged PA Chairman Yasser Arafat to sever ties with the Jewish state.

Both men addressed a crowd of 20,000 to 30,000 at Palestine Stadium in Gaza, at a rally marking Hamas' 10th anniversary. Some demonstrators waved toy guns in the air. Others chanted "Allahu Akhbar," as

activists unfurled green Islamic flags. A large poster draped across the stage showed a Hamas fighter carrying an assault rifle while standing on a burning Israeli flag.

"We reject the security agreement which has been witnessed by the CIA, and we consider it a declaration of war against the Palestinian people," Rantisi said.

"We will continue our struggle and resistance until we uproot the occupation from our land," he added.

Yassin said: "We don't want joint economic projects, half Jewish and half Palestinian. We don't want to be the bridge for Jews to cross into the Arab and Islamic worlds."

He said peace would come only after all Palestinian prison-

ers were released from Israeli prisons and when movement institutions closed by the PA were reopened. While calling for Palestinian unity he criticized corruption within the PA and demanded that all those responsible be prosecuted.

The crowd cheered as the wheelchair-bound Yassin vowed to continue holy war "against the Zionist occupier until we will liberate all of Palestine."

A group of 20 men, their faces masked by red-and-white checkered head dresses, marched around the stadium with Yassin posters pinned to their chests.

Five of them strutted over to Yassin on the dais, saluted him, and one said: "Our resistance fighters will continue until we liberate every centimeter of Palestine."

Patriarch: Palestinian Christians not mistreated under PA

By JAY BUSHINSKY

The foreign news media's scathing criticism of the treatment being meted out to the Christian minority within the areas administered by the Palestinian Authority has been denounced by the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Msgr. Michel Sabbah, as an unwarranted "campaign."

Quoted in the Arabic newspaper A-Sinara, which appears in his hometown of Nazareth, Sabbah dismissed the reports as a pretext to fan Moslem-Christian tension. But in a contradictory comment, he warned that it "will lead to nothing but further extremism."

Reports of Christians being harassed, insulted, and persecuted appeared in two major British newspapers, The Daily Telegraph and The Times, last Sunday and Monday respectively, evidently prompting the patriarch's qualified rejoinder in a special Christmas message.

"Life in Bethlehem has become insufferable for many members of the dwindling Christian minority," wrote the Times's Christopher Walker. "Increasing Moslem-Christian tensions have left some Christians reluctant to celebrate Christmas in the town at the heart of the story of Christ's birth."

A prominent Palestinian journalist rejected this assessment, contending that although Bethlehem's Christians constitute only 20,000

of the city's population of 50,000, "they control the economy and the mayor is a Christian."

But Walker quoted Lina Attallah, receptionist at the Salesian Convent and Church, as saying: "I do not dare to go out on Christmas Eve any more. The Moslem boys call me and other Christian girls whores. They spit at us, try to force us to wear head scarves, and during the month of Ramadan the Palestinian Police even arrests us for smoking or eating on the streets."

The Daily Telegraph's Aliza Marcus, reporting from Nablus, charged that "Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority is waging a campaign of intimidation and harassment to push Moslems who have converted to Christianity to renounce their new faith." She wrote that members of a West Bank evangelical congregation told her they have been threatened, beaten, and in some cases jailed by Palestinian officials.

"The first time the Palestinian Police called me in, they told me I had better become a Moslem again," a 25-year-old man who converted six years ago reportedly told her. "But when that did not work they would accuse me of being a spy for Israel. Finally, I started to get death threats in the post, so I ran away from my village."

Sabbah said relations with the authorities "in Palestine, Jordan,

and the rest of the Arab Middle East are good." He asserted that Arab society has a history of cooperation between Moslems and Christians in all fields.

In a carefully worded qualifier, however, the Latin patriarch said: "On the other hand, yes. There might be some incidents or isolated clashes. There might also be violations on the part of low-level officials. Ultimately, however, this campaign only raised our attention. Moslems and Christians alike, to the necessity of deepening our relations."

'Germany warned Israel of Smyrek'

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and news agencies

German security officials had reportedly warned their Israeli counterparts of Stefan Smyrek's intentions to carry out a terrorist attack in Germany yesterday, Smyrek, suspected of being sent by Hizbullah, planned to carry out a terrorist attack in Israel, as well as other attacks against diplomats at the Israeli Embassy in Bonn.

In an interview in the German newspaper Bild, Smyrek's mother said her son had been brainwashed by an Egyptian woman, that he had informed his mother he had converted to Islam, and told her it was better she did not know about his activities.

Smyrek, 26, whose father was a British soldier stationed in Germany, moved with his mother and stepfather to England after his parents divorced. He attended boarding school in England and reportedly returned to Germany in 1986 and later served in the German Army. He was reported to have been under police protection for a period of time after testifying against drug dealers.

Smyrek was arrested by the General Security Service at Ben-

Gurion Airport on November 28 after he flew in from Amsterdam. At the time he was carrying a video camera, film, a map of Israel, and \$4,000. Smyrek was briefly detained by security officials at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport before being allowed to fly to Israel. The Dutch officials reportedly informed their Israeli counterparts of his pending arrival.

Last Wednesday, details of his arrest were released for publication. On Thursday he was charged at the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court for attempting to harm security, conspiring with an enemy, and membership in a terrorist group. The court extended his remand until January 4.

According to the charges, Smyrek visited Lebanon from August until November this year, where he attended a Hizbullah training camp in the Bekaa Valley and learned to use explosives and light weapons. He was to carry out an attack in Tel Aviv or Haifa.

His operators instructed Smyrek to return to Germany and exchange his passport to trace traces of his Lebanese visit before traveling here to gather information. He was then to travel to Turkey, where the final plan and sites for the proposed attack were to have been chosen.

Lack of funds may force Israel out of Lisbon expo

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Israel's participation in Expo 98, an international fair taking place next year in Lisbon with 150 countries represented, now appears unlikely due to the Jubilee Committee's failure to allocate the requisite NIS 8 million.

The commission's pledge to provide the funds had been confirmed in writing by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Foreign Ministry spokesman Aviv Shir-On said the project will not be possible unless the money is provided.

All the other Middle Eastern countries are due to be represented. In a memorandum sent to Foreign Ministry Director-General Eitan Bensur by Ambassador to Portugal Yehiel Yativ, a copy of which reached The Jerusalem Post, the envoy expressed astonishment at what he said was a decision taken to cancel Israel's

He said it was taken at a high-level ministerial meeting in his absence.

"It is unthinkable we will go back on our signature to take part and cancel our presence only five months before the exhibition opens," Yativ wrote. The envoy said Portugal has spent "thousands of dollars" in preparing the Israeli pavilion in accordance with the special security provisions stipulated.

He warned that Israel's refusal to participate will deal a severe blow to relations with Portugal, which, he stressed, is a member of the UN Security Council and is due to take over its presidency.

Yativ also pointed out that an industrial delegation is scheduled to visit Portugal next month with Communications Minister Limor Livnat at its head, to explore the possibility of a joint venture in telecommunications.

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Train of thought

A coalition of groups promoting ecological concerns, accident prevention, and mass transit demonstrate opposite the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem on Friday to call for greater railway investment. (Brian Hender)

Cohen favorite for Labor secretary-general

By SARAH HONIG

MK Ra'anan Cohen is considered a shoo-in for the post of Labor Party secretary-general in today's central committee election.

Cohen had lost several opponents during the race and is now left with only one - MK Eli Dayan. All the dropouts and Dayan alike accuse Labor chairman Ehud Barak of having so stacked the odds in Cohen's favor that no one has a chance of defeating him.

The election is due to take place in Pavilion 28 at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds - the site of last month's ill-fated Likud convention.

Dayan over the weekend repeated his contention that "this is no fair contest, but one that has from the very beginning been weighted overwhelmingly in favor of one of the runners - Ra'anan Cohen. All others who wanted to stand against

him have been treated as undesirable trouble-makers who had the temerity to disobey the party bosses.

"Such interference causes untold damage to Labor and to its candidate for prime minister. It casts grave doubts on Labor's claims to be a thoroughly clean democratic party. When steamroller tactics are employed against those who dare not toe the line, then we are in severe danger of returning to the very bad old days of Mapai's fear-mongering, ruthless party machine and its bookkeeping geared to intimidate any of those the establishment at any point fingered as disloyal."

MKs Eli Goldschmidt and Haggai Meron had pulled out of the race, charging that Barak was rigging the proceedings. Meron accused Barak of "having done everything to make sure that Cohen wins. He wants Cohen,

because he is a Sephardi and would thus be a decorative token addition to the Labor ticket. But he mostly wants Cohen because he is such an obedient yes-man. I sadly totally lack both qualifications and am therefore held in great disfavor. Barak has made sure that I would stand no chance whatever."

Cohen dismissed such talk last night as "unfair. This is what the losers tend to say to account for their failure. They need to pin the blame on someone - anyone - but not on their own shortcomings. Thus they unjustly accuse the party chairman of favoritism. They are hurting the party's cause. They know that if I win, the one and only reason for my victory will be my considerable political achievements, the legislation I had initiated - such as shortening reserve duty and aid to veterans - and my undeniable successes as Labor Knesset faction chairman."

Zionist Congress passes Burg compromise on pluralism, conversion bill

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The 33rd Zionist Congress ended in a heated late-night marathon in which World Zionist Organization Chairman Avraham Burg tried to convince members of the Mizrahi delegation to accept a compromise resolution regarding pluralism and

the conversion bill. Burg, speaking just before the vote late Thursday night, said he had "pleaded, begged and cried" in his talks with the Mizrahi delegation, "asking them to be the NRP of compromise, as they have in the past." Ultimately, however, his efforts failed, and Mizrahi made its own proposal, based on Burg's but

leaving out certain sections with which they could not agree. However, the increased strength garnered by the Reform and Conservative delegations in elections in the US earlier this year for delegates to the congress helped carry Burg's compromise resolution over the Mizrahi proposal, with only Mizrahi and a few obser-

vant members of the Likud opposed, a source present at the voting said. "There was a feeling of a legitimate, substantive disagreement," the source said, and no overt anger on the part of the Mizrahi delegation. "But there were some displays of happiness among the Reform." Burg's proposal said the con-

gress, "out of deep concern for the unity of the Jewish people, calls on the leadership of the religious streams of Judaism in Israel and the Diaspora to cooperate with the Israeli government to guarantee the success of the Neeman Committee in its efforts to solve the painful questions on the Jewish people's agenda, including those regarding

personal status and the ability to act in Israel." If the Neeman Committee's efforts fail, the government should not to permit any change in the Law of Return and refrain from any other changes in laws regarding religious affairs, unless they are done with "wide approval and by bearing in mind the support of all

parts of the Jewish people in Israel and the Diaspora," the proposal said. It also called on the government not to pass the conversion bill if it fails to reach a compromise, but also noted "the position of Mizrahi, Likud, Tsomet, Molechet and others to this position for reasons of religious belief and conscience."

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

The tension between the political and security echelons reached a new high last week following Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's rejection of the security memorandum and his criticism of the IDF's conduct in the negotiations with the Palestinians.

According to *Yedioth Aharonot's* Alex Fishman, there is no basis for the government attack on IDF's conduct because OC Planning Branch Maj.-Gen. Shlomo Yanai, who led the IDF contingent, was coordinating with Netanyahu.

He adds that Netanyahu views the agreement as a potential trap, because once it is signed, Israel will have a hard time accusing the Palestinians of passivity to fighting terror.

Ma'ariv's Yosef Lapid states that "the decision-making process on this memo is bad for the Jews," adding that the only damage that came out of the affair lies "in the publicity of the controversy between the politicians and IDF commanders to the amusement of the Palestinian spectators."

The significance of the report [in the media] was that the prime minister does not back the chief of staff or his officers," *Ha'aretz's* Uzi Benziman writes, "but he imposes on them the responsibility for the mistakes and obstacles that have allegedly been found in the document."

He adds that Netanyahu, who always sought to distance the IDF from political negotiations, has used them in the negotiations with the Palestinians, "because he is looking for an alibi, when facing his political adversaries from the Right."

Ma'ariv's Ben Caspit focuses on the deteriorating trust between IDF and the government, concluding that it has reached "a new low."

"Israel is being viewed by the Palestinians and the Americans... as an African banana republic."

Budget battle

Netanyahu and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman's attempt to pass the 1998 budget, is a complicated

mission, states *Ma'ariv's* Chemi Shalev, who notes that in relation to previous prime ministers, Netanyahu's task is twice as difficult, "because the budget goes hand-in-hand with the political process."

He adds that Netanyahu must appease no less than eight coalition factions, "whose budget appetite is equal to their ability to bring down the government."

Yedioth's Sever Pitzker states that the debate over the budget is distorted, claiming that it doesn't take into account the changes in Israel's economic environment and the depth of the social ferment. He attacks the government for not dealing with the recession.

"The current recession is not accompanied by any economic step that might ensure the right end at the right time," he adds that the end of the recession will come in the year 1999, "an ideal time for the elections."

Ha'aretz's Nebemia Strasser criticizes the large sums of money poured into certain sectors, on the account of others: "More money to the settlements, to the Haredim and less to the working public and towns with severe unemployment."

Yedioth's Bina Barzel comments on Foreign Minister David Levy's threat to resign if the agreement signed between him and Netanyahu concerning social and economic commitments is not upheld in the new budget.

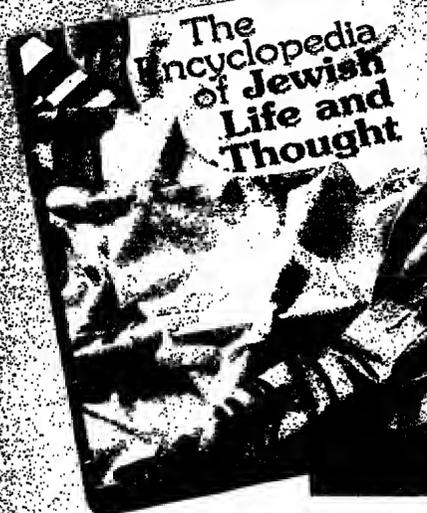
"The war over the budget is the crossroad from which Levy will turn to bring down the government," she writes. "This time, if Netanyahu will want to avoid a political move that will jeopardize his government, he will be forced to woo Levy."

1997 remembered

Ma'ariv's Lapid looks back at the passing year with regret. In contrast to other countries around the world, where no news is good news, "in the Middle East, you cannot waste time without paying the price," he writes.

"The year 1997 was a year of missing out on opportunities, a year of failure, of cessation... A historian in the future will write: In Israel a terrible thing happened that year: Nothing."

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סוכנת מן הארץ

Le Pen fined for Holocaust remarks

PARIS (AP) - A court on Friday convicted far right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen of contesting crimes against humanity, for saying Nazi gas chambers were a "detail in history." Le Pen, who escaped a possible jail sentence, was ordered to pay up to 100,000 francs (\$17,000) to each of 11 civil rights groups and 300,000 francs to publish the court decision in more than a dozen French newspapers or magazines.

"More than the money awarded, we count on and hope to publicize this about Jean-Marie Le Pen ... who was condemned for his racist and antisemitic statements," said Pierre Aidenbaum, head of the rights group LICRA.

Le Pen, the leader of the anti-immigrant National Front, who skipped the hearing, has already paid dearly for making that remark a decade ago when he was forced to pay hundreds of thousands of

francs in damages.

But the punishment didn't stop him from saying it again December 5 at a news conference in Munich. "If you take a book of 2,000 pages on this war ... the concentration camps fill two pages and the gas chambers take up 10 to 12 lines. That's what you call a detail," Le Pen told the Munich news conference.

"I have said and I say again at the risk that it be a sacrilege, that

the gas chambers are a detail of history of the Second World War," said Le Pen, whose National Front has taken about 15 percent of the vote in recent national elections.

Eleven civil rights groups filed a complaint following Le Pen's December remarks, alleging he contested crimes against humanity. Anyone convicted of the act risks a maximum one-year prison term and a fine of up to 300,000 francs.

Report: Germany, Jewish groups agree on Holocaust fund

BERLIN (AP) - The government and Jewish groups have agreed in principle on a German fund that would pay monthly pensions to Holocaust survivors in eastern Europe, a newspaper said Friday.

Details are to be decided next month by Chancellor Helmut Kohl's chief of staff, Friedrich Bohl, and the chief Jewish representative in the talks, Israel Singer, the Berlin daily *Tageszeitung* said.

The Jewish Claims Conference would manage the fund and pay pensions to 17,000-20,000 eligible recipients, *Tageszeitung* said.

Germany agreed in August to consider giving more compensation to Holocaust victims in Eastern Europe, and a panel of German and Jewish officials was set up to agree on a plan.

ADL, Wiesenthal Center battle hate sites on the Net

By TOM TUGEND

LOS ANGELES - The marketing of hate, racism and terrorism on the Internet and World Wide Web has become so pervasive that two leading Jewish organizations are giving top priority to ways of combating the spreading cyberspace plague.

So serious is the threat in the eyes of the Anti-Defamation League, that the issue headed its 1997 list, released last Monday, of the top ten stories affecting American Jewry.

"The Internet and the World Wide Web were increasingly exploited by neo-Nazis, antisemites, racists, Holocaust deniers and other extremists in 1997, and the technology became a more significant part of their propaganda arsenal," noted the ADL. Sophisticated Web sites have become the racists' "marketing tool" of choice, far more effective than old-fashioned fliers and pamphlets, according to the Simon

Wiesenthal Center. While the ADL in New York and the Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles agree on the urgency for stemming the flow of electronic hate messages, their approaches differ.

ADL is teaming up with a software company to develop a filter which will enable Internet users to screen out hate sites, substituting instead messages on the dangers of prejudice.

The filter is being developed by The Learning Group, whose Cyber Patrol program is widely used by parents to block Web sites carrying pornographic and graphically violent material.

The same technique will be adopted to screen out hate sites compiled in a list by ADL. For its part, the Wiesenthal Center hopes to stem the spread of hate messages by urging commercial on-line companies to police themselves.

To make Internet service

providers (ISPs) aware of the magnitude of the problem, the center has compiled a virtual who's who of 600 hate groups with their own Web sites.

These sites are catalogued in a three-part, interactive CD-ROM, titled "Racism, Mayhem & Terrorism: The Emergence of an On-line Subculture of Hate," which will be distributed to law enforcement agencies, educators, the media and the public.

"Over the last year alone, hate sites have grown by about 300 percent, which, among other things, provide detailed recipes for bomb making, recruit young people and sell racist music," said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Wiesenthal Center.

Cooper sees the disc as a "collective wake-up call," particularly to the ISPs, who host the Web sites and can draft policies to regulate them.



Argentina grave desecration
A member of the Buenos Aires Jewish community on Friday observes one of some 30 grave-stones desecrated by unidentified vandals on Christmas Eve. Photographs of the dead were also defaced in the attack, for the second year in a row, on the Jewish cemetery in the suburb of La Tablada. The Argentine Interior Ministry issued a statement warning of a rise of anti-Semitism in the country. (Reuters)

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New Bosnian parliament could dent Karadzic's power

By MILOS SOLAJA

BIJELJINA, BOSNIA (Reuters) — The new Bosnian Serb parliament met yesterday for an inaugural session that Western mediators hope will dent the power of hardliners grouped around indicted war criminal Radovan Karadzic.

Mediators hope the formation of a strong pro-moderate government will make it easier to secure the surrender of Karadzic and other wanted Serbs to the UN war

crimes tribunal in the Netherlands. But political sources said his early extradition was unlikely in view of the current balance of power.

Her Serb National Alliance (SNS) said prime ministerial candidates from the SDS and the Radicals were unacceptable.

Milosevic, blamed for fomenting the Bosnian war by arming Karadzic's rebellion against independence, influences nine seats in the new parliament through the Bosnian Serb Socialist Party.

The loss by the hardliners of their overall majority was a step forward for Plavsic and international mediators who are struggling to force hardliners to comply with the peace agreement, which they have resisted at every stage.

If she succeeds in getting Ivancic elected, their first priority will be to try to gain control of the police. However the hardliners, who control most of eastern Bosnia, will continue to wield considerable power.

Italian boats rescue hundreds of stranded Kurds

SOVERATO, Italy (AP) — Italian tugboats yesterday rescued 825 illegal immigrants, most of them Kurds, from a Turkish ship that ran aground off the southern coast here in one of the largest attempts to smuggle people into Italy.

By mid-afternoon, all of the passengers had been brought to shore, the Italian news agency ANSA reported from this Calabrian coastal town in the "toe" of the boot-shaped peninsula.

Two men and a woman were hospitalized for dehydration after the six-day voyage in which passengers said they were given only bread and cheese to eat. In all, 165 of the passengers were women or children, authorities reported.

Temporarily shelter was being provided at schools and a sports center. Besides Kurds there were Pakistanis and Iraqis aboard, RAI state television reported.

Windsor Castle reopens 5 years after fire

WINDSOR, England (AP) — Windsor Castle opened its doors to the public yesterday for the first time since the completion of a \$62 million restoration of state rooms gutted by fire five years ago.



The verdict from visitors was a thumbs up. "It is a miracle what has been done to restore the castle, especially bearing in mind how it was just ash and rubble after the fire," said George Snaith, 75, who came from Wales to see the castle's renovated northeast section.

The renovation was completed in November, ahead of schedule and about \$5 million under budget. It was just in time for Queen Elizabeth II and her husband Prince Philip to host a 50th wedding anniversary dinner and ball on November 20 at the castle, the monarch's favorite royal residence.

The fire on November 20, 1992 — which was started by a curtain resting on a high-intensity spotlight — capped what the queen called her "annus horribilis," a year that also saw the collapse of the marriages of her sons, Prince Charles and Prince Andrew.

Nine state rooms were destroyed or severely damaged in the fire and a further 100 rooms were affected. "I saw the castle when it was first opened after the blaze and have been coming every three months to watch what was done," said John Ffoulkes, from Windsor, who brought his son George, 8, to see the restoration.

Edinburgh and a memorial plaque identifying where the blaze started are the only obvious clues to visitors of the fire. The castle now boasts \$25 million worth of fire prevention equipment, including smoke detectors.

Jail slaying threatens N. Ireland cease-fire

BELFAST (AP) — A senior Protestant paramilitary commander was shot dead inside Northern Ireland's top-security Maze prison yesterday, threatening to upset fragile paramilitary cease-fires in the British-ruled state.

Loyalist Volunteer Force chief Billy Wright was fatally shot by two gunmen from an Irish Republican Army splinter group while he was in the confines of Northern Ireland's supposedly most secure facility 19 kilometers southwest of Belfast.

He was shot five times in the back in a visiting area and died instantly, police said. Three members of the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA), an anti-British group opposed to the IRA's July 20 truce, handed in two handguns to a Catholic prison chaplain and were arrested by police.

Wright — dubbed "King Rat" in grim recognition of his support for killing the north's Catholics in general and IRA supporters in particular — was convicted earlier this year of threatening to kill witnesses testifying against him.

Plavsic's power base covers a smaller area around Banja Luka in north and northwest Bosnia and she has needed Western diplomatic, political and peace-keeping resources to impose her authority.

He demanded the immediate resignations of Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam and the chief of the prison service, Alan Shannon, and appealed to everyone — at church level, political level, industrial level, community level wherever — for God's sake, hold things tight for the next 24, the next 48 hours.

The shots that killed Wright in a visiting area came from a nearby section of the Maze housing INLA members. A security source said two gunmen apparently struck Wright after climbing onto the roof of the INLA prisoners' wing.

Woman plummets to her death at Rome's Colosseum

ROME (AP) — An Italian woman who wanted to see the Colosseum at night after it closed fell to her death yesterday inside the 1,900-year-old arena.

Anna Brancadoro, 27, had scaled the main gate with her boyfriend and had climbed up the ruins of an old arch on the second level when she apparently lost her balance and fell some 25 meters, the Italian news agency ANSA reported.

37,000 dead since start of Kurdish rebellion

ANKARA (AP) — Turkish President Suleyman Demirel said yesterday that 36,926 people have been killed in a 13-year-old war between autonomy seeking Kurdish rebels and government forces and he vowed that Turkey would continue the battle.

news conference. According to a parliamentary commission report about 2,500 villages have been illegally evacuated by the army in the southeast since the guerrillas of the Kurdistan Workers Party launched their bid for autonomy in 1984, the daily *Milliyet* said yesterday.

room in the castle which was destroyed in the fire, now boasts a new roof which is the highest piece of Gothic-style carpentry erected in Britain for more than two centuries.

Turkey has been severely criticized overseas capitals for its brutal tactics used in fighting against the rebels, including burning and forcibly evacuating villages believed to be sheltering the guerrillas.

About 365,000 people were forced to migrate to big cities because of forcible evacuations, the report said.

A stained glass window inspired by the Duke of Edinburgh and a memorial plaque identifying where the blaze started are the only obvious clues to visitors of the fire.

"We are determined to defend our territorial integrity until the end," Demirel said in a year-end

The breakdown of the death toll is as follows: 26,532 Kurdish rebels, 5,209 civilians and 5,185 soldiers and police.

St. George's Hall, the largest

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Bonn attacks army neo-Nazism

By ERIK KIRSCHBAUM

BONN (Reuters) - Germany's Defense Ministry, stung by opposition charges of complacency, insisted it has taken harsh and decisive steps against neo-Nazi activities in the army.

Lower Saxony's Social Democrat state premier Gerhard Schroeder was talking nonsense in changing there had been a "massive failure in army leadership and that right-wing episodes weren't taken seriously enough," a ministry spokesman said Friday.

"Schroeder's accusations against Defense Minister Volker Ruethe are nonsensical, completely unfounded and we reject them," the spokesman said. "No one has taken harsher and more decisive steps against incidents of right-wing radicalism in the army than Ruethe."

The army has been embarrassed in recent weeks over revelations of

numerous far-right incidents.

The Defense Ministry on Wednesday ordered soldiers to report incidents of far-right extremism to commanders rather than the media after NDR television quoted a recruit saying an officer made antisemitic remarks during a shooting exercise.

NDR, a public network broadcaster, said a recruit it identified as "Eike V" was told by a paratrooper officer he would score higher during a recent shooting exercise if he imagined the target were a Jew.

"I wasn't hitting the target very well and the officer told me: 'Just imagine it is a Jew - then you'll hit him every time between the eyes,'" the recruit was quoted as saying.

The Defense Ministry investigated assertions by 21-year-old Christian Krause that officers regularly made toasts to Hitler and shouted "Sieg Heil."

Germany may deploy arms abroad for 1st time since WWII

BONN (AP) - German anti-missile units defending southern Germany could for the first time be stationed outside the country under an agreement with the US going into effect January 1, the German Defense Ministry confirmed yesterday.

The arrangement allows the anti-missile units to be stationed on soil outside Germany but within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The agreement reflects another step in the loosening of Germany's decades-long self-restraint abroad due to its legacy of Nazi brutality sowed during World War II.

The ministry confirmed the agreement in response to an advance yesterday of a report to appear in tomorrow's edition of *Der Spiegel* magazine. But the spokesman disputed the magazine's characterization that Ruethe was "quietly widening the out-of-area deployment of his soldiers."

A Cold War-era agreement between the United States and Germany on joint missile defense rules out at the end of 1997, and the new agreement was negotiated over the past year, the spokesman said.

Torrential rains in Congo leave thousands homeless

KINSHASA, Congo (AP) - Flood waters in the northeastern city of Kisangani, which left at least 7,500 people homeless, have begun to recede, Congolese officials said yesterday.

The torrential rains that had blasted the region for a week, leading officials to declare Kisangani a disaster area, ended Thursday, though light rain still occasionally fell, said Jean-Baptiste Sondji, the minister of public health.

There was still a risk of a cholera epidemic breaking out in Kisangani and the nearby city of Banalia, where dozens of cases of severe diarrhea - including two deaths - were reported, Sondji said.

The Congo River, which runs

alongside Kisangani, fell approximately one meter Friday, Sondji said, and was continuing to fall yesterday.

Government officials on Thursday declared Kisangani, the largest city in the Congolese northeast, a disaster area.

Water reportedly remained in many of the city's streets, electricity was still out and clean water was difficult to find.

Sondji said that about 1,500 homes were destroyed, leaving approximately 7,700 people homeless.

Another government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said at least 10,000 people have been affected by the flooding.

On Friday, UNICEF flew 13

tons of supplies into Kisangani, including medicine, canvas sheeting and water-treatment equipment, said Daniell Mallefer, a spokesman for the United Nations children's organization.

The Congolese northeast has had an unusually large amount of rainfall this year, but the serious flooding began about a week ago with the onset of nearly constant torrential downpours.

The flooding also ravaged a number of other towns in the region, including some that are now reachable only by boat.

Kisangani faces such serious flooding about every 10 to 15 years.

The last flooding of this magnitude occurred in 1978.

3 Moslem militants get death penalty in Egypt

By TAREK EL-TABLAWI

CAIRO (AP) - A Cairo court sentenced three Moslem militants to death yesterday for killing 26 policemen and for plotting to kill 46 other policemen and their families.

Two of the men - still at large - are leaders of al-Gamaa al-Islamiya, the strongest militant group fighting to overthrow Egypt's secular government. Rifaat Zaidan and Abdel-Hamid Osman will have to be retried if they are captured.

The third, Hassan Khalifa, was wounded while trying to kill a policeman. He sat handcuffed to a wheelchair as the judge read the sentence for the 1992-93 killings.

"Thank God," Khalifa said, after hearing the sentencing.

"After I've longed for this [for so long], God has been kind and granted me martyrdom."

The sentences must be approved by Egypt's senior Islamic cleric, the Grand Mufti, but that is largely a formality.

Executions in Egypt are usually carried out by hanging.

The three were tried along with 30 other suspects. Judge Ismail Hamdy postponed those sentences until January 27.

Those suspects are accused of the 1994 shooting attack on a bus carrying Romanian workers in the southern province of Assiut that left no one hurt; and a 1992 attempt to blow up a train carrying tourists to Luxor, the site of many of Egypt's most spectacular Pharaonic sites.

The militants, dressed in white galabiyas or traditional gowns, broke into chants of "Allahu Akbar," Arabic for God is Great and songs of encouragement for Khalifa after the sentencing. All of



Handcuffed to his wheelchair and clutching a Koran in his left hand, Egyptian militant Hassan Khalifa reacts to his death penalty verdict yesterday at a Cairo security court, as the other defendants cheer. Khalifa was sentenced for the slayings of 26 policemen. (AP)

the militants held copies of the Koran in their hands.

"We feel no fear in dying for the cause of God," Khalifa said. "Prison and execution will not shake our faith in Islam."

The militants have waged a five-year campaign aimed at overthrowing Egypt's secular government and replacing it with Islamic rule. More than 1,150 people,

mostly police and militants, have died since the group stepped up its fight in 1992.

"Islam will continue until God makes it victorious, and until Egypt is under Islam," Khalifa told reporters as police tried to clear the courtroom.

Six gunmen belonging to al-Gamaa al-Islamiya opened fire at the Pharaonic Temple of

Hatshepsut in Luxor on November 17, killing 58 tourists.

Rifaat Ahmed Taha, one of the group's hard-line leaders based in Afghanistan, has denied that al-Gamaa al-Islamiya had pledged to stop attacks against tourists, the Loodoo-based *Islamic Media Monitor* reported yesterday.

In another development, President Hosni Mubarak has rati-

fied death sentences passed in October against three militants for plotting to blow up Khan el-Khalili, Cairo's oldest market, and kill police officers, police officials said.

Two of the militants were sentenced in absentia. The third, Adel Ali Bayoumi al-Sudani, is in custody. Al-Sudani is a leader of al-Gamaa al-Islamiya's military wing.

Chinese police cut phone of dissident labor activist

BEIJING (AP) - A dissident who recently issued a nationwide appeal for independent labor unions says police have cut his phone line and stepped up surveillance in violation of his human rights.

Veteran activist Qin Yongmin sent a letter to the United Nations Human Rights Commission protesting the increased harassment by police in his central Chinese hometown of Wuhan, the Information Center of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China said yesterday.

China has a single nationwide trade union, controlled by the government.

No independent labor organizations are allowed.

Qin is among many activists who are urging the tens of millions of workers left unemployed by defunct state-run factories to organize.

The calls for better human rights protection have been galvanized in part by China's decision to ratify a 20-year-old UN covenant on social, economic and cultural rights ahead of President Jiang Zemin's US state visit, which took place in late October.

After Qin publicized his appeal earlier in the week through the international media and overseas human rights groups, his mail was seized and his phone line cut by the police, according to a copy of his letter provided by the Hong Kong-based human rights group.

Qin complained of increased police surveillance and said his neighbors had been coerced into spying on him.

In addition to his call to workers to organize, Qin sent a letter to Chinese President Jiang Zemin earlier this month urging the government to show good faith by allowing protests by laid-off workers and drafting stronger

civil liberties laws.

Hundreds of protests have broken out across China as the pace of layoffs has increased during the year.

The state-run media rarely reports such news, but police appear to have tolerated many of the disturbances, although some resulted in arrests and other official retaliation.

Asked about such protests while visiting Canada, Jiang said China's constitution allows freedom of assembly, speech and demonstration, but he said those rights did not give license to "create chaos."

Qin spent eight years in prison in the 1980s for pro-democracy activities.

He was arrested another time in 1993 for his role in the "Peace Charter" movement, and then spent two years working in a labor camp.

In a separate appeal to Jiang sent yesterday, former autoworker Leig Wanbao urged that the Chinese government desist from charging workers involved in protests with "counterrevolutionary crimes."

"The state enterprise reforms are bound to result in many layoffs. The unemployed should be allowed to organize independently to sort out their problems," he said.

Leig, who was released from prison in 1994 on medical parole, praised the government's decision in May to overturn a conviction against him and three other dissidents.

The four were sentenced to prison terms ranging from two to 20 years for organizing an anti-government group in their hometown of Changchun, in northeastern Jilin province, during 1989 pro-democracy protests.

But he said the decision implied that others still imprisoned for the demonstrations should also be freed.

2 dead in Belgium train wreck

By ANDENNE, Belgium (AP)

ANDENNE, Belgium (AP) - A passenger train in Belgium crashed into a car and derailed into a nearby house yesterday, killing two people and injuring some 30 passengers, officials said.

The accident killed the two people in the car and left two train passengers seriously injured. The other passengers were treated for minor injuries, a police official said.

The train was traveling between Liege and Mouscron on the French border when it collided with the car near Andenne, 60 kilometers southeast of Brussels, at 11:20 a.m. local time. Two of the train's three wagons derailed and one slammed into a house.

Kaunda's disappearance raises int'l concern

LUSAKA, Zambia (AP) - The family of former Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda sought his whereabouts yesterday while international pressure for his release mounted.

Kaunda, 73, who leads the opposition to President Frederick Chiluba, was arrested on Thursday but has not been charged.

Home Affairs Minister Peter Machungwa said that Kaunda has been flown by helicopter to Kabwe, which has led supporters to believe he is being held at the nearby Mukobeko maximum security prison. Machungwa refused to divulge further details.

Kaunda's eldest son Wezi, lawyers and aides were traveling yesterday to the town of Kabwe, an industrial town 130 kilometers north of the capital to find him,

another son, Panje Kaunda, said.

The detention of Zambia's founding father, who led the nation to independence from the British in 1964, came four days after he returned to the country from a lecture tour.

Kaunda was away in October when soldiers seized control of the state radio station and broadcast that they had overthrown Chiluba. Loyalist troops quickly crushed the rebellion.

Kaunda was served with a 28-day detention order Thursday under a state of emergency declared after the failed coup.

Foreign Minister Kelli Wambita said he was a suspect in the coup attempt. Kaunda has repeatedly denied any involvement.

But the government refused to officially charge him during a

court appearance on Friday. The court hearing was postponed until tomorrow.

Chiluba's critics claim the government is using the attempted coup to suppress political opposition. Police have detained another opposition leader for more than a month.

South African President Nelson Mandela asked the Zambian government to either release Kaunda or bring him to trial immediately.

"The detention without trial of political opponents is contrary to the basic principles of a democratic polity," he said.

The arrest has also drawn criticism from the United States and the secretary general of the British Commonwealth.

Kaunda, who has said he would stage a hunger strike until he was charged or released, looked frail

and tired when he appeared Friday at the Lusaka High Court, according to Panje Kaunda. "He is still refusing to take water. He is a stubborn man. We are worried," he said.

Chiluba ousted Kaunda from 27 years in power in the nation's first multiparty elections in 1991.

PIG

Continued from Page 1

Eskin has been arrested a number of times on suspicion of incitement to violence. He was sentenced in July to four months in jail for placing a death curse (*qulha dinara*) on prime minister Yitzhak Rabin a month before his assassination on November 4, 1995.

Outgoing police Insp. Gen. Assaf Hefetz said in an interview published on Friday that authorities know of plans by Jewish extremists to damage the Islamic shrines.

"We know there are elements in the extremist Right that are planning to harm the mosques on the Temple Mount," Hefetz told Yediot Aharonot. "We need to keep a watchful eye on right-wing extremists who are developing the idea of redemption."

In a separate interview with Ha'aretz, Hefetz warned that further progress in the peace process could spark a Jewish underground into action.

"As the political process advances, battles between Left and Right will develop, especially on the extremes, which will lead to violence and serious provocation," he said.

BUDGET

Continued from Page 1

Gesher's five MKs intend to vote against the bill's health reforms, which means that Foreign Minister David Levy would have to resign, as a cabinet member voting against the government. Gesher hopes this threat will lead the Treasury to remove the health section from the bill, said MK Michael Kleiner (Gesher).

The party has also refused to vote with the government until a list of other budgetary requests are met.

Gesher members were to meet with Netanyahu this morning in a bid to reach a compromise. If by tomorrow Yisrael Ba'aliya's demands have not been met, the party also intends to vote against the government. Of principal concern to Yisrael Ba'aliya is the government's failure to update mortgage aid over the last five years. "Their value has been eroded by as much as 57 percent," said a senior party worker.

Shas is also waiting to hear from the Treasury on a proposed ministerial committee on health, which would include Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli

Yishai (Shas). The party is reportedly pushing for Health Minister Yehoshua Matza's removal, and reports have suggested that Shas leader Aryeh Deri discussed this with Netanyahu on Friday.

Over the weekend several coalition MKs announced plans not to support the government during voting. Ze'ev Begin (Likud) told Netanyahu on Friday he would be linking his vote on the budget to guarantees on the diplomatic front. It was their first meeting since Begin resigned as science minister.

Begin and about 10 other right-wing MKs are threatening to withhold support for the budget until March 31, so as to delay another pullback in the West Bank. If the budget is not passed by April 1, the government would fall.

Matza this weekend told journalists he would not vote with the government as long as the health proposals remain on the agenda. He added that he would not be sorry to see Neeman quit if it came to a choice between Neeman's job and the proposed changes in the health system.

Matza last night accused Shas of trying to take over the health system. "They have their own desires and their control does

not belong here," said Matza. "I must make the health funds more efficient and not allow for wastefulness."

Tsomet MK Eliezer Zandberg said he intends to vote against the government, because of the health proposals. Likud MKs are scheduled to meet tonight to discuss the lack of party support for the proposed budget. Sheerit said last night that party colleagues must realize that, for the government to survive, they must give up their personal campaigns and work together.

Zvi Hendel (NRP) last night said he would support the government in the Finance Committee debate, "but we'll have to see what comes after that. The government has still not met our demands."

The NRP has called for additional school hours, funding for major roads in Judea and Samaria, and a promise there would be no changes in the structure of family health centers (*ripot halav*).

Opposition MKs attacked the government over Shabbat for failing to persuade coalition MKs to toe a uniform line. "This is a government without a head and a head without a government," Mretz leader Yossi Sarid said.

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סוכנו של האגף

Israel, the uncensored version

By ROBBY BERMAN

Crouched over a table, his hand grasping a pencil and a blank piece of paper, the unidentified man and his family anxiously focus on the scratchy words coming from the oversized radio. It is midnight, November 29, 1947.

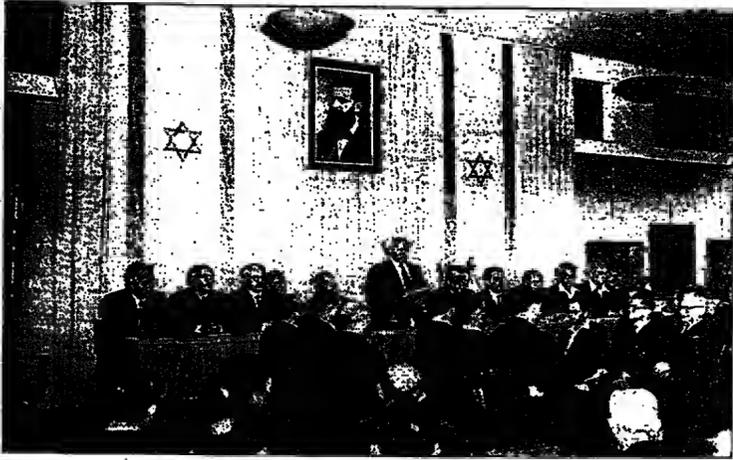
"Afghanistan? ... no. Argentina? ... abstain." The members of the UN were voting on the resolution to partition Palestine, which led to the creation of the state - just one of the more famous, historical scenes that will be aired in Channel 1's new series called *Tkuma - the First Fifty Years*. *Tkuma* is a difficult Hebrew word to translate, falling somewhere between "foundation" and "inception."

The daring 22-part documentary about the State of Israel is the continuation of the well-received government-sponsored *Pillar of Fire* series on the history of Zionism produced in the 1980s. Gideon Drori is the editor-producer for the entire series, but each episode has a different director.

Tkuma deals with sensitive and numinous issues that led up to, and followed, Israel's independence; some issues were solved by peaceful means, most by violence. The series moves compellingly back and forth between past and present, newscasts and interviews. It combines thousands of shots of archival film footage - some never seen before due to government censorship - with contemporary interviews.

Tkuma is no saccharine, rose-colored film produced by the Jewish Agency. A mosaic of voices is heard, demonstrating the multiple, often opposing, viewpoints on critical questions.

The first episode, "A Generation in Israel," describes life in Palestine from 1936 to 1947, describing the Arab Revolt and the Jewish struggle against the British. The Jewish population, approxi-



David Ben-Gurion reads aloud the Declaration of Independence of the State of Israel in 1948, one of the famous moments documented in the second part of the 'Tkuma' series.

mately 400,000 in 1936, grew enormously after Hitler's rise to power. Palestinian Arabs, feeling threatened by this Jewish influx, began what turned out to be three years of protests and mayhem. To show the British that they were displeased with the open-door immigration policy, the Arabs began this early intifada with a commercial strike, closing down everything from the street market to Jaffa port. The strike backfired. The Jews constructed their own port in Tel Aviv and became more independent in commerce, relying far less on Arabs for labor or goods.

Rare black-and-white newsreels and Jewish Agency posters depict Jewish laborers, with dirty hands, performing backbreaking work to build the country. Although Arabs are not given equal airtime with their Jewish counterparts, the

series occasionally raises serious questions about the exclusive rights of Jews to this part of the Fertile Crescent.

With the onset of WWII, debate raged among Jewish factions on the question of whether to continue the struggle against British rule or to stop completely, allowing Britain to focus its energies on fighting the Germans.

One of the right-wing underground organizations argued, correctly as it turned out, that the British would continue their rule of Palestine after the war. Now, they maintained, when the British were most vulnerable, was the time to strike.

The second episode of *Tkuma*, "A Star in the Making," depicts the war of 1948 and the declaration of statehood. The film describes situations of that period which are uncannily similar to

those of today - the bombings of buses and Ben-Yehuda Street, for example, and the debate about political and military approaches between the Jewish right- and left-wing parties.

The third episode, "Silver Planter," relates how a relatively small number of Jewish soldiers repelled the invading Arab armies. The episode covers the War of Independence up to the cease-fire. The painful memories of the slaughter at Gush Etzion, the heavy losses of new immigrants at Latrun, and the siege and eventual surrender of Jerusalem's Jewish Quarter are vividly portrayed.

The concept of "surrender" was hotly debated at that time, a topic that, unfortunately, was not theoretical. Kibbutz Deganya, resisting the despair of the moment, stood firm against Syrian and Jordanian troops, despite over-

whelming odds. The capitulation of Nitzanim to the Egyptians, on the other hand, brought heavy criticism of the survivors. One leaflet plastered throughout Tel Aviv read: "To surrender when you're still alive, when your last bullet still breathes life in the breach of your gun, is a disgrace!"

One former fighter describes his two-day leave from the battlefront. He had gone to the coast to relax a little and was shocked at the normalcy of Tel Aviv life while the besieged population of Jerusalem was under constant attack.

Even assuming that viewers are familiar with Middle East history and know about the Peel Commission, the White Paper, the Night of the Bridges, etc., there is still much to gain from watching *Tkuma*. Hearing an octogenarian IZL fighter admit that he killed fellow Jews because they were informers is chilling.

Another interview reveals the transformation of one Holocaust survivor's *galut* mentality to an Israeli one: "As I was walking through Jaffa, some Arabs threw stones at me," he recalls. "So I picked them up and threw them back. I was shocked that I did that. Back in Poland, I would ever respond to a provocation by non-Jews."

Tkuma is peppered with interesting vignettes that history books don't tell us. When Rommel threatened to invade Egypt and continue northward, the Jews in Palestine prepared for the worst. *Tkuma* shows footage of Palmach units training in sabotage techniques and guerrilla warfare in order to continue its actions under what was feared would be the eventual German occupation of Palestine.

An English-language version of *Tkuma* to be marketed abroad is currently in production.

Tkuma - The First Fifty Years will air on Channel 1 every Sunday, beginning on December 28 at 8:45 p.m. Don't miss it.

Music that is easy on the ears

Sabra Sounds



By Emily Hauser

It's hard to review compilation albums. The only artistry involved is in the editing. In the end, it really boils down to whether the consumer likes the songs and artists chosen.

Such is the case with Hed Arzi's double offering *Haklassika Shel Haklassika* ("Classic Classics"). In fact, this is really a re-release, as both CDs first saw the light of day a while ago. They are now being offered in a boxed set, part of Hed Arzi's "du-set" series, in which two popular albums by the same artist (or, in this case, on the same theme) are paired and offered at a special low price.

The two *Haklassika Shel Haklassika* discs purport to be a fair representation of classic

HAKLASSIKA SHEL HAKLASSIKA
("Classic Classics")
Various artists
(Hed Arzi)

BE'IKVOTAYICH
("In Your Footsteps")
Various artists
(Hed Arzi)

Robas's "Kama Al Yafa" ("You're So Beautiful") and Shlomo Gronich's "Nuseiba" - but for my money, Hed Arzi has a different compilation that is much more "classic": "Le'olam Be'ikvot Hashemesh" ("Forever Following the Sun") - not to be confused with the slightly more esoteric "Le'olam Be'ikvot Hashemesh II."

This collection has a much goofier approach to the subject and features such jewels as the title track, sung by Sheri. "Yehezkel" by Hahalonot Hagvohim, and the Navy Chorus's "Hasakeh."

AND while we're on the subject of golden oldies, *Be'ikvotayich* ("In Your Footsteps") is a collection of some of the best-loved songs penned by composer Nuri Hirsch. She wrote music for which the Hebrew term "Eretz Yisrael hayafa" ("beautiful land of Israel") is best suited. It's heavy on the emotionality and naivete of the state's early years, with a lot of Eastern European influence.

The lyricists who put their words to Hirsch's music wrote in the same social milieu, and the result was songs such as "Pegisha Rishona," ("First Meeting") with its trademark harmonized "la la la's," and "Hahziki Lanu Etzba'ot" ("Cross Your Fingers for Us"), in which a soldier endears his girlfriend to "keep up the morale" to what can best be described as a finger-snapping version of a march.

You'll also find an Ofra Haza performance from the days before she discovered her Yemenite roots, "Kol Yom Mat'hila Shana" ("Every Day Starts a New Year"), a fun little hora-esque track called "Ahava Hi Perah" ("Love is a Flower"), and the famous theme song to the classic film *Hasheter Azvotai* ("The Policeman"). Lyricists include the likes of Ehud Manor and poets Leah Goldberg and Haim Nahman Bialik.

If you like to sing around the campfire, if you enjoy those company evenings out for "shira betzibur," if you truly long for a simpler, entirely melodic age, you will probably like *Be'ikvotayich*.

The first disc boasts the wonderful Boaz Sharabi tune "Na Venad" ("Moving and Wandering") and Ruti Navon's played-every-first-rainy-day "Geshem Be'ito" ("Rain in its Time"), as well as a slightly bizarre dirty called "Ani Shmurat Teva" ("I'm a Nature Reserve") - Dafna Armoni's Hebrew-language rendition of Loretta Lynn's "You're Lookin' at Country." Can that really count as an Israeli standard?

And there's the rub, I guess: one Israeli's classic is another Israeli's annoying muzak. I did find another two songs I really love on the second disc - Danny

DID YOU KNOW?

Q: What loog-defunct Israeli band, with a song featured on *Haklassika Shel Haklassika*, was named after a medical specialization?
A: Af Ozen Garon - or, as the specialization is known in English, Ear, Nose and Throat.

No more Basie at bedtime



By Norm Guthartz

It had been an exhausting day with the kiddies, ending with a long visit to the dentist, a tedious bus ride home and a dinner during which my five-year-old daughter put her head down in her plate; she had the presence of mind to move over to the sofa, but that was all.

APRIL IN PARIS
Count Basie and His Orchestra
(Helicon)

THIS LIFE
Albert Beger Quartet
(NMC)

My seven-year-old and I were fading at the table, so, in an effort to revive myself, I put *April in Paris* on the stereo. With the first lush surge from the mighty Basie Orchestra, both girls perked up. They shimmied around the living

room during most of the disc; it was a struggle to get them settled down after that. I made a mental note: No more Basie at bedtime.

High energy is just one of the beauties of Basie. Exciting arrangements, lots of surprises, terrific musicianship and relentless swing - these are all in evidence - and how! - on this classic 1956 album.

The 16 men in the lineup include Thad Jones on trumpet, Frank Foster on alto, rhythm guitarist Freddie Greene, and drummer Sonny Payne. The numbers run from longtime Basie basics like the title track, "Corner Pocket" and Foster's "Shiny Stockings" to Foster's smooth reworking of Duke Ellington's "What Am I Herc For?" and "Dinner with Friends," one of many byrpswing offerings from composer/arranger Neal Hefti that the orchestra regularly blasted from the bandstand. The pop-like "Midgits" races along at a pace that leaves the listener breathless, with blazing solos by trumpeter Joe Newman, who also wrote it, and Frank Wess on flute. The two then trade licks, after the Count puts in his rolling, barrelhouse two cents and bassist Eddie Jones gives his ax a workout.

Take the time to enjoy all of it, even the seven alternate takes tossed in at the end of the disc. Besides saving you the trouble of having to restart your CD player, I can't imagine why Verve added these bonus tracks. You have to listen very carefully to bear the



Count Basie's classic 1956 album is full of high energy, terrific musicianship and relentless swing.

difference between them and the cuts from the original album, except for the three takes of "Magic." The take that made the album is played at a considerable clip, compared to the alternates. It's well worth listening to - as the Count says - "one more time."

ALBERT BEGER made me think of another tenorman called Albert - Ayler - and the slew of avant-garde jazzmen who blew their hearts out during the late '60s and '70s before dwindling audiences, which were being siphoned off by music that made fewer demands

on listeners. By harking back to their sound, Beger is plowing a difficult furrow. But he may be close to reaping a good harvest because of a contract NMC has signed with Sony-Europe for foreign distribution of *This Life*. Beger's second album.

It's a credit to Beger that, unlike so many Israeli jazz performers, he's avoided the pat formulae of fusion and dedicated himself to creating in a more cerebral branch of jazz. Overall, the music is interesting, sometimes challenging. His playing is full of emotion, marked by trills, squawks and rapid runs.

One thing that characterizes a lot of Israeli jazz is inventive arrangements which are meant to make up for the shortcomings of occasionally uninspired or fragmentary compositions. But Beger can make the most of this combination, as on "Fishermen," which is an extended statement over the brief, continuously repeated chorus.

"Hassidute" is a tension-filled modernist *dona* which finds Beger climbing slowly to a throaty Gato Barbieri-style climax. The most successful track is "Purple House," which alternates between halting and driving rhythms; everything - the writing and the interplay of the band members - really comes together as it should. "Love" is likewise pleasant, setting a mysterious mood. But "Dao," which sounds promising at first, finds Beger's extended solo being dragged down by the static line played by bassist Gabriel Meir and pianist John Bostock; drummer Assaf Sirkis tries to vary his play but ends each phrase with a predictable cymbal crash.

Beger's rhythm section is competent, but the musicians often show a lack of inspiration, putting much of the weight on Beger's sax. True, his compositions are built to highlight his own playing, but there's nothing wrong with putting more demands on the rest of the quartet as he did with the final, title track, on which Meir and Bostock take long rides. More of that would make Beger's life a bit easier and make for a more varied, exciting recording.

Is it lights out for the arts?

By HELEN KAYE

The Orna Porat Children and Youth Theater (CYT) may have to shut down. The Cameri Theater stands to lose some NIS 3 million. The Ra'anana Symphonette will not give 15 scheduled concerts at a cost to it of some NIS 115,000. The BatSheva Dance Ensemble will have a NIS 80,000 deficit. The Israel Ballet will not dance its 10 scheduled performances next month and will be NIS 200,000 the poorer.

In short, local performing arts institutions are reeling. A large chunk of their income, or their very existence, is predicated on the work they do within the framework of the country's educational system.

And the system has declared war on the performing arts, which are in the middle of a fracas between the teachers' unions and the Treasury. The teachers want to be paid for accompanying their students to performances and on school trips (everybody in that sector is hating too, but trips do not fall within the scope of this article). The Treasury says no, so the teachers have imposed sanctions: no plays, dance, concerts, films, encounters with artists, nothing.

"The major part of our income comes from our morning performances in the schools," says Israel Ballet general manager Hillel Markman. The same is true for many of the smaller performing arts institu-

tions, like the BatSheva Ensemble, and certainly for CYT. Its entire income comes from the school system, and schools have been canceling performances - 30 in November alone. If the trend continues, says CYT board chairman Micki Yerushalmi, "the theater will be out some NIS 2 million, losses that will force the theater to shut down by the end of February at the latest."

Last year CYT alone gave 700 performances at 250 venues for some 400,000 children. It, the Israel Ballet, the Symphonette, etc., like many other arts institutions and individuals, are affiliated with Omanut La'am (Art for the Masses), which is funded by the Ministry of Education. It administers a "basket of culture" worth NIS 17.5m, which comprises the performing and the plastic arts as well as film and literature.

OLA's mandate is primarily to serve the periphery so that working through such an arts clearing house allows distant settlements, especially development towns, to get some of the best on offer at subsidized prices. OLA too has ground to a halt.

There are also scores of private institutions that have been hit, such as the 20-year-old Binama Theater run by Misha Asherov. Binama's repertory of 18 plays caters to youth from kindergartens through 12th grade. Since September, 68 performances have been canceled at a cost of some NIS 4.5m. and some 50 jobs.

Unemployment is a direct effect of the teachers' sanctions, and it affects not only actors but theater/orchestra/dance company support teams such as stagehands, drivers, and set builders.

But the Treasury is adamant and the teachers are intractable. Both sides accuse the other of bad faith, cynicism, not to mention out-and-out lying.

The teachers demanded NIS 700 per teacher per day for extra-curricular activities, insists Treasury spokesman Moti Sherf. "Currently they get NIS 53 per day, and we offered to double that. They refused. So we suggested 'let's talk about this when the oew salary negotiations begin in two weeks,' and they said no to that as well."

Representatives of the teachers' unions say that nobody talked specific sums. The teachers want to be paid by the hour for extracurricular activities. At the very least they want the Treasury to pay them the daily fee of NIS 53, which was part of the last collective agreement but which the Treasury has withheld since 1994.

The Education Ministry is in the middle, too. It is willing to transfer funds to pay the teachers from one of its budgets to the other, a move which will not hurt students, it insists.

The Treasury has nixed the idea. "The education budget was cut by NIS 150m. this year," says Sherf, "so that any sum transferred to teachers will be at the expense of students."

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#4	9	EYVATAR BANAI	EYVATAR BANAI
#5	4	OLIVER SHANTI	CIRCLES OF LIFE
#6	13	THE VERVE	URBAN HYMNS
#7	14	VIA	RAPSOODY ... NOW 38
#8	5	VIA	SPIRITS OF THE WORLD 2
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Bosnia revisited

The Christmas visits to Bosnia by US President Bill Clinton and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl provided a somber opportunity for some stocktaking on what has or has not been achieved in this wearisome Balkan mess.

As the seasonal visitors headed back to the comforts of their civilized home states, a new Bosnian Serb parliament began its inaugural session yesterday. The main hope resting on the assembly by those in the West, who are footing the bills for pacifying the country, is that the power of indicted war criminal Radovan Karadzic will at last be curbed. That seems a little premature – the November election left the opposing Serb rivals delicately balanced in the 83-seat House.

Karadzic himself is banned from active leadership, but his former warmongering SDS Party and its Radical Party allies captured the largest number of seats. They lack an overall majority however. The Americans and Europeans want Bosnian Serb president Biljana Plavcic to appoint a moderate prime minister, but the Karadzic supporters ranged against her SNS Party in the parliament stymied her choice of a mild economics professor, Mladen Ivanic, to head the government. Two headline candidates approved by Karadzic for the post are clearly unacceptable to either Plavcic or her Western backers.

Of course, the erosion of the hardliners' former majority and the emergence of Plavcic as a surprisingly pragmatic leader has provided the main source of satisfaction for the West this year. It was the next best thing to achieving the near-impossible task of persuading the pro-Karadzic factions to embrace the Dayton peace treaty willingly. Plavcic's break with the hardliners was not such a surprise as many proclaimed. The difference between them is that she is merely a hardline Serb nationalist – but she was never part of the hardline communist power elite her current enemies came from. She now bitterly denounces them as time-servers and opportunists involved in criminal smuggling and getting rich off the backs of "true, Bosnian patriots." Corrupt or not, the Karadzic hardliners still control eastern Bosnia and most of the police forces, and they will continue to be dangerously powerful.

If the focus is currently on inter-Serb rivalries in Bosnia, the picture is no prettier in the Moslem-Croat federation, whose imminent collapse is one of the longest-lasting unfulfilled predictions in this savagely divided country. In the US-brokered Dayton peace agreement of two years ago, what the West constructed from the ruins of Bosnia was rickety at best, foolishly optimistic at worst. There was to be a single Bosnian state, but it was virtually partitioned into a Serb

republic and a Croat-Moslem federation. Each half has a large measure of autonomy and unitary Bosnia gets a tiny central government. This was a guilty de facto recognition that ethnic cleansing had worked in the three-year war. Dayton put on hold the external menace of Croatia and Serbia eliminating Bosnia by carving a large slice each from its territory. It also created a political paradox – a state that is united on paper and irrevocably divided on the ground. Add the unwillingness of the international coalition of forces in Bosnia to put military muscle behind the Dayton provisions for a unitary state and the formula for a very uncertain 1998 in Bosnia is prepared. Put simply, the gap between what has been done and what has yet to be done is a chasm. In Bosnia there are few volunteers for bridge-building.

The next question, after how long is "united" Bosnia going to last, is how long are the foreign forces going to stay there. In the past two years, civilian agencies have spent \$2 billion helping Bosnia, and the American and European NATO forces have spent uncounted billions in keeping the peace. A lot has been achieved by, and since, Dayton when we remember the previous three years. When the troops went in to enforce the treaty, an arbitrary pullout date of a year was cobbled together to appease the fear of the unknown displayed by public opinion and the US Congress.

What we have now is the dreaded "mission creep" with a vengeance. Clinton has admitted there is no Plan B for an exit. Public opinion is quiet – for the moment – but so is Bosnia. Most Americans have forgotten it exists, unless they have a relative in the forces there. A citizen of Sarajevo yelled at Clinton that the American troops should stay for 50 years. He obviously was saying out loud what Clinton and the European leaders know, but dare not whisper – that Bosnia is only being barely held together by the NATO forces, and when they go it will disintegrate again.

The most dangerous military and political undertakings are those that have no end in sight. The politicians and generals have been saying it for decades since Vietnam. They reminded themselves very clearly of the principle before going into Bosnia, and used Somalia as a grim benchmark. Yet here they are again – stuck in a volatile and dangerous place where the leaders seem itching to start the killing again. Clinton cannot stand for reelection, but someone in the United States should be worrying very much about the fickleness of public opinion if Bosnia leaps into the news again and the peacekeepers are in the middle. Despite the great recovery the patient seems to have made, the prognosis is not good.



OLEG 97

Planning for the future

Today in Beersheba some three hundred geographers and planners will get together for the annual meeting of the Israel Geographical Association. As with virtually all other meetings and conferences which will take place during the coming year, the geographers will focus on fifty years of achievements and failures, the evolution of Israel's human landscape during the past five decades and the directions which planning is likely to take during the next fifty.

Having started out with a population of less than one million, Israel has grown sevenfold during the past fifty years. In a country as small as Israel, it has not been easy to find the housing and settlement solutions for such a rapidly growing population. For the best part of four decades, the country's inhabitants were limited in their choice of residence. Either they became agriculturalists in the kibbutzim and the moshavim, or they lived in small apartments in overcrowded towns. This has changed dramatically during the past fifteen years, as suburban residential communities have sprung up throughout the country and the quality of living conditions has improved beyond anything which could have been imagined just twenty years ago.

But this has not come without a price. Israel's real estate is rapidly becoming filled with concrete, replacing the open spaces and the orchards which were so recognizable. In the narrow coastal strip between Hadera and Gedera, the few remaining citrus orchards have become more like nature reserves than commercial enterprises. Israel's unique rural landscape, for which it was so famous, is rapidly disappearing, as the economic processes of the market determine the uses which will bring in the largest profit.

In one important area, Israel's planning policies have had only limited success. From the outset of the state, successive governments have attempted to disperse the population to all regions, particularly the geographic peripheries in the north and the south. At times of

mass immigration, such as in the early 1950s and, again, in the early 1990s, the government was able to direct much of the flow of new arrivals to development towns in outlying areas. But overall the Israeli population has preferred to relocate in the center of the country, close to the jobs and the social activities, leaving much of the country's peripheral regions unsettled and undeveloped.

Israel's planners have recently completed a major strategic blueprint aimed at determining the dispersal of population and settlements in the year 2020, when the country's population is expected to grow to about nine million people. This plan envisages the continued growth of the metropolitan center in an upwards direction, as Tel Aviv and the neighboring towns will simply run out of land. There will be no option but to create the sort of skyscraper landscape which is common to so many North American cities. The thirty and forty story buildings which are beginning to appear along the Ayalon highway will, if this scenario takes place, become a common sight in the Tel Aviv region.

The high, even astronomical, price of land in the Tel Aviv region will cause much of the population to move further afield, especially if transportation links improve. After Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa, it is envisaged that Beersheba and the surrounding region will become Israel's fourth metropolis reaching a population of eight to nine hundred thousand inhabitants, four times as large as the current situation. The Beersheba metropolitan plan envisages a region which reaches the green line in the north, Arad to the east and the poorer development towns of Dimona and Yeroham to the south and Netivot and Sederot to the west.

But as has been so evident during the past week with the demonstrations in Ofakim and Dimona, without employment opportunities, this population will either seek to relo-

cate back to the center of the country, or will simply increase the number of unemployed and socially deprived population of the periphery.

Housing and planning blueprints are insufficient. Long-term infrastructural investment is necessary if the population increase is to remain in these regions.

Planners have also been guilty of paying far too little attention to the environmental implications of their grandiose planning schemes. Open spaces have disappeared, underground water aquifers have become polluted, while the construction of new roads has brought about a parallel increase in the number of cars rather than focusing on alternative transportation policies.

The political influences are also to be felt. Inequality between Jewish and Arab settlements is rampant. Many Arab villages and towns lack basic infrastructures, and only a few of them have planning blueprints approved by the Interior Ministry. Their population is growing rapidly but they are physically strangled as successive governments refuse to provide them with the land necessary to expand. But at the same time, we should not forget that a country has been built in just fifty years. Hundreds of thousands of immigrants have been housed and the overall living standards of the Israeli population are among the highest in the world.

But it is time for planners to rethink how Israel's limited space will be organized during the next fifty years. Many of the old planning concepts are no longer relevant, and as the private market gradually takes the place of the government in the construction sector, rigid guidelines need to be determined in order to prevent the scarce landscape from being destroyed.

This is a challenge which awaits Israel's planners and geographers at today's conference.

The writer is Professor of Political Geography and Director of the Humphrey Institute for Social Research at Ben Gurion University of the Negev.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CYNICAL GAMES

Sir, – It is ironic that foreign donors meet in Paris to discuss falling foreign investment in the Palestinian economy – down from \$1 billion to \$200m. since last year – and Shimon Peres and President Muharak, in Cairo, discuss ways to help the Palestinian economy: when both the Palestinian Authority and Egypt boycotted the recent regional economic conference in Qatar which has held to promote the very foreign investment which Egypt and the Palestinians sorely need.

For decades the Palestinians

GET ITS ACT TOGETHER

Sir, – The good news is that Prime Minister Netanyahu, on behalf of the Israeli government, will refuse to sign a flawed security document between the PA and Israel which does not provide for the extradition of terrorists or the confiscation of weapons.

The bad news is that this security document was negotiated on behalf of Israel and initiated by Ami Ayalon, the head of the General Security Service.

When will this government get its act together?

ROBERT KIRK
Tel Aviv.

ALLAN MORRIS

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On December 28, 1932, The Palestine Post reported the death of the second victim of Nahalul bomb outrage – a father followed his young son to the grave. "Undaunted by Arab terrorism" sentiments were expressed by more than 1,000 persons gathered to attend Joseph Yakovitz's funeral.

50 years ago: On December 28, 1947, The Palestine Post reported that seven persons were killed and nine were injured in Arab attacks on convoys near Jerusalem. Hans Beyth, Acting Director of the Jewish Agency's Youth Aliya Department, was killed while replying to the attack with his licensed Mauser pistol. Two of the attackers were killed. Two Jews were killed, two wounded and a number of others hurt in Negev fighting. One settler was missing and five others were wounded in a day-long Arab attack on Kfar Yavetz.

The official casualty figures since the Arab disturbances began on December 1, 1947, were 316 dead, 125 Jews and 102 Arabs, nine soldiers and two British policemen, 11 Jewish Settlement Policemen, and others.

Of the officially reported 744 wounded 288 were Jews, 362 Arabs, 31 British soldiers, 30 British police and others.

Arab train robbers, operating in large groups in the Tulkarm area, attacked and held six trains.

The heavy firing heard day and night in Haifa claimed a mounting death toll – eight Jews, eight Arabs and two Britons. Arab Legion soldiers in Haifa's Neveh Sha'anun quarter opened fire on Jewish buses killing one man and wounding eight.

Two punitive actions were undertaken by the Hagana in the Jerusalem area. In the first, the Arab cafe in Romema, from which a bomb was thrown which injured nine Jews traveling in a No. 12 bus, was damaged and the neighboring mineral water factory was blown up.

The second action was carried out against the Silwan village which, according to the Hagana, was the base for attacks on the Dead Sea convoys, the Jewish Quarter of the Old City and on the funeral processions to the Mount of Olives. A number of houses in the village were blown up, and there were many casualties.

25 years ago: On December 28, 1972, The Jerusalem Post reported that Israeli jets blasted terrorist bases in Syria in a continuation of the offensive against the terrorists. The attack came in the wake of several terrorist incursions into Israel's territory.

In Moscow the Soviet authorities published the official "price list" for academics wishing to emigrate.

Alexander Zvielli

Looking into the crystal ball

Looking ahead into 1998, here's what to watch for:

Oslo - This is the year Netanyahu gets flustered out. Does he really intend to advance the peace process, or to bury it? The die is cast for another painful IDF pull-back. Where does he go from there? A national unity government by spring, I think.

Honest broker - Pretty soon we'll know whether Clinton and Albright plan to adopt the Bush-Baker approach and lean hard on Netanyahu. More likely, I think, they'll conclude that undue pressure only leads Bibi to circle the wagons and helps rally the troops to his side. Anyway, it will be domestically difficult for Clinton to do so.

The Palestinian Authority - At least 18 Palestinians have been tortured to death in PA custody, and often it's the good guys – civil rights and democracy activists. How many more in 1998? Plenty of Hamas activists, mind you, will pass unharmed through the revolving door penal system that passes for Arafat's anti-terror campaign. And by the way, might Arafat's obvious illness or other misfortune leave us nervously watching an intermezzo Palestinian battle for power between the various Rajoub-type heavies?

US Jewry - Who will set the community tone on Israel? The Israel Policy Forum (left) or ZOA (right)? Where will the vaunted friends of Bibi and American Yeshiva activists be when Netanyahu moves into final status talks? Will the Conference of Presidents regain its prominence?

Revenge of the princes - Meridor, Begin, Olmert and Milo are scheming something. Watch for dissension and mutiny within Likud that will make kick-boxing look like child's play. And pay attention to Sharon.

Labor - Can Barak lead? Why

DAVID WEINBERG

don't the polls show him clobbering Bibi? It's unlikely that Ehad will be able to maintain his outreach to the Israeli center. Radicals like Dalila Itzik and Uzi Baran unfortunately will drag him into an anti-religious, stridently anti-rightist embrace with Meretz.

Sharansky - Yisrael Ba'Aliyah is tearing itself apart from the inside, and a split into two factions isn't inconceivable. Sharansky and Edelstein are too "right-wing and religious", and "insufficiently tough" in pushing the immigrant agenda, detractors say. But don't count out Natan yet. The Russians are organizing seriously for the November municipal races and will surprise us all.

Neeman Committee - There's hardly any chance whatsoever that by January 31 the haredized Chief Rabbinate and radicalized Reform leadership will agree on marriage and conversion procedures, and call a cease-fire in the pluralism wars. Time to go back to administrative, solutions, perhaps, and keep the issue out of the courts and Knesset.

Histadrut - Will the government have the guts to put Amir Peretz and his Bolshevik gang behind bars the next time they defy the courts and try to close down the country?

Regional stability - King Hassan and King Fahd are deadly ill; Hussein and Assad are not exactly healthy. We'll actually miss some of these guys when they pass on. Islamic fundamentalist challenges are possible in Morocco and Jordan.

Teheran spring - The Islamic Republic is advancing determinedly towards full nuclear weapons status and sponsoring terrorism against regional moderates like Mubarak, while making conciliatory noises in Washington's direction. Let's not be hoodwinked. Remember North and

McFarlane's cake eater?

Iraq - I'd like to believe, but don't, that this is the year America will finally take down Saddam. No, there's no nuclear and biological facilities in all those "presidential palaces", the French will tell us at the UN. Just mini-golf courses and milk powder factories, didn't you know?

Nazi Gold - Will the Swiss vote to set up a humanitarian fund for Holocaust survivors, as demanded by Jewish groups? Who's the next "Switzerland" to be targeted for financial dealings, with Hitler? Probably Argentina, Spain and Sweden. When will Israeli banks open their records of dormant Holocaust accounts?

Congress - It's not a certainty that Republican control of Congress can be maintained through the November elections. (This is important to Netanyahu.) A group of key pro-Israel stalwarts in the Senate will have to defend their seats in competitive races, including Al D'Amato, Arlen Specter, Barbara Mikulski and Bob Graham.

The Pope - Vatican denies notwithstanding, the Pope is very seriously ill. What will Catholic-Jewish relations be like after John Paul II, and what will become of the millennium 2000 celebrations in Israel that he is so keen on?

Media - Can the battle between the yellow-journalism giants Ma'ariv and Yedioth get any worse? Ha'aretz shows signs of being dragged down to their oh-so-low levels. Will Channel Two turn all our minds to mush with yet more silly sitcoms, stupid game shows and moronic chat programs?

What about loose nukes in the former Soviet Union, the ozone hole, El Niño and global warming? Take a deep breath and pray for deliverance.

The writer comments on current affairs.

Cigarette consigliere

ALAN DERSHOWITZ

The recent disclosure of more than 800 previously secret documents relating to the cigarette industry has raised anew some profoundly disturbing questions about the role of lawyers. These documents suggest that cigarette industry lawyers played an active role in suppressing the truth about the health hazards of cigarette smoking. Although the 834 documents come from the files of only one cigarette manufacturer – the Liggett Group – they reflect communications involving lawyers from the other tobacco companies as well.

These documents confirm the finding of a Minnesota state court judge who recently concluded that major cigarette companies and their lawyers have engaged in a long-term "conspiracy of silence and suppression of scientific research" about the carcinogenic nature of smoking.

The documents reveal that lawyers were directly involved in concocting phony research projects designed to show that cancer and heart disease were caused primarily by air pollution and other factors rather than by smoking. Lawyers were instrumental in proposing junk-science studies designed to mislead the public into believing that smoking was safe. Lawyers paid tens of thousands of dollars to junk scientists who were prepared to prostitute themselves to the cigarette industry. The documents acknowledge that these lawyers were making "advocacy primary and research secondary." The documents also demonstrate that lawyers actively encouraged the cigarette industry to misuse the lawyer-client privilege by claiming that fraudulent research was protected from scrutiny. They also misused the privilege to suppress research unfavorable to the cigarette industry.

The rules of professional responsibility, which govern the activities of lawyers, are vague with regard to legal advocacy in the civil context. In a civil case, the rules are quite different, especially when the lawyer represents the client in an ongoing relationship. The lawyer may not take actions which deliberately mislead the public or the courts. When the lawyer does so, he incurs potential civil liability.

The time has come for the American Bar Association to provide specific guidance to lawyers who represent dangerous industries on an ongoing basis. Obviously, any individual or business has the right to counsel, but a license to practice law is not a license to engage in tortious or criminal behavior. Lawyers must limit their advocacy to the giving of lawful advice and to the taking of lawful actions on behalf of their clients. They must understand that they may not act as "consigliere" to an organization which is hiding the fact that it is selling a lethal product.

It is always dangerous to regulate lawyers in the interests of political correctness. Regulations which today serve the public interest against a dangerous drug like tobacco may be used in the future to regulate advocacy of controversial political views. Accordingly, the bar association should be cautious in reining in lawyers. But at the same time, the history of the cigarette industry and its unholty relationship with lawyers warrants a serious reconsideration of the role of lawyers in the context of ongoing representation of a hazardous product. It is unlikely that the bar association will actually undertake a candid review of cigarette lawyers, since these lawyers come from large and prestigious law firms. Nor is the public sufficiently outraged about the role of cigarette lawyers.

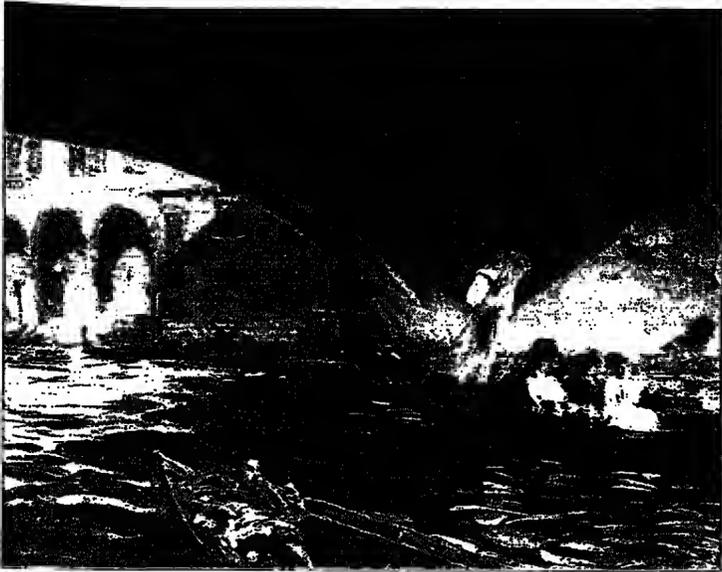
Whenever a criminal defense lawyer wins an acquittal for an apparently guilty defendant, the public is whipped up into a frenzy by talk-show hosts and editorial writers, despite the reality that criminal defense lawyers are supposed to fight for the acquittal of their clients, even if they believe their client to be guilty. There is also a public outcry – and several pending indictments – against criminal lawyers who have served as consigliere to the Medellín drug cartel. But there is little public outcry about cigarette lawyers who have gone well beyond the bounds of legal advocacy and have helped their clients to continue to kill millions of people around the world.

When the history of the cigarette industry is finally written, the faceless lawyers who quietly made millions of dollars helping their clients suppress the truth may finally receive the opprobrium they deserve. For now, they remain honored members of a profession that is confused about the proper role of advocacy.

Alan M. Dershowitz is a professor of law at Harvard University.

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John Singer Sargent: 'The Rialto,' oils, 1909, sold by Sotheby's for \$2.2m.



John Singer Sargent: 'A Gust of Wind (Judith Gautier),' oils, 1887, sold by Sotheby's for \$1.65m.

'Titanic' letter sells for £4,830

AT THE AUCTIONS
By MEIR RONEN

The loss of the ill-fated *Titanic* on her maiden voyage on April 12, 1912, when 1,500 of her 2,340 passengers were drowned, still exerts a powerful grip on imaginations. The recent discovery of the remains of the "unsinkable" liner on the deep ocean bed off Newfoundland — where it came to rest after having its hull gashed open by an iceberg — and a new blockbuster movie have helped keep alive all the stories about the sinking.

A rare lettercard posted from the *Titanic* was sold for £4,830 at Sotheby's London last week, six times its expected price. The card, complete with its original envelope and George V penny stamp, was bought by a 36-year-old London accountant who had been looking for a *Titanic* souvenir for over a decade. The card was sold by Stan and Violet Martin of Clacton, Essex, to raise money for the repair of their local Methodist church. Decorated with the flag of the White Star Line, the envelope had gathered dust in a letter rack for over 40 years before it passed to Mr. Martin after the death of his mother-in-law.

The card was mailed to a Josiah Stevens of Leyton, Essex, by the Reverend Robert Bateman, a churchman from Jacksonville, Florida, who mentioned that he was accompanying a Miss Ada Balls, perhaps as a chaperone. Bateman perished, but his young charge survived.

A GOOD DEAL of fascinating local history crops up at stamp auctions. The extensive catalog published by Dr. Wallace Auctions of Rehovot of its sale held at the Philatelic Society Club in Tel Aviv on December 16 and 17 was rich in covers and stamps from the Mandate, Forerunners (stamps that predate the Mandate), those connected with the Holocaust and the



Moshe Mokady: 'Man without a Chair,' 1924, expected to reach \$70,000 at the Gordon Auction on January 11.

Egyptian and Jordanian occupations of parts of Eretz Yisrael between 1948-67. Also on sale was the \$100,000 collection of the late Prof. Emanuel Ilan, of both archive material and disinfected mail. The collection documents 500 years of early medicine and the past practice of disinfecting mail in attempts to contain epidemics. The range of over 3,000 lots in this sale was astonishing. Wallace Auctions can be contacted at 17 Derech Yavne in Rehovot.

GORDON OF Tel Aviv is offering 352 lots at its 42nd auction to be held at the Tel Aviv Congress Center on January 11-12. The sale of local and international works of art has Gordon's usual target of \$1m. Among the offers are a rare Mokady oil from 1924, *Man without a Chair*, which looks to me as though the sitter may have been poet Uri Zvi Greenberg (\$60,000-

\$70,000); an Ardon oil from 1970 (\$90,000-120,000); a typical early Zaritzky pencil and watercolor of Nahlat Shiva, 1924 (\$12,000-\$16,000); a Picasso etching from 1934 of four nudes (\$18,000-\$24,000); a Rubin oil of Ein Kerem from 1951 (\$50,000-\$70,000); a pencil-and-pastel drawing by Aroch, 1971 (\$8,000-\$12,000) and a rare vase of flowers by this artist (\$5,000-\$7,000); a double bronze of sheep by Danziger, 1967 (\$30,000-\$40,000).

Several landscapes by Isaac Levitan will arouse interest. Three fine abstract paintings by Raffi Lavie and a gouache on paper by this artist all look like bargains. The work on paper starts at only \$500. Drawings by Yosi Bergner are also up for modest bids in Part 2 of the sale. Bergner is heavily represented in Part 1. A gouache abstraction by Avigdor Arikha is worthy of attention.

The two-volume Gordon catalog (NIS 120) can be obtained by calling (03) 524-4862 or fax (03) 524-0323.

HANDS UP those who remember John Singer Sargent (1856-1925), one of the greatest American *alla prima* realist painters (and the most prolific), who worked directly from models or landscapes in a palette-to-canvas technique that eschewed underpainting and glazing. His elongated portraits of young American turn-of-the-century upper-class couples are masterpieces of both portraiture and drapery.

My favorite Sargent, and one of his most superb compositions, is a huge canvas in Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, showing two little girls from an obviously wealthy home on the carpet of their mansion, with two little servant girls lingering in the shadows in the background; it's a brilliantly lit work that combines the best of Manet, Robert Henri and Renoir.

Sargent was actually born in Italy and settled in Paris and finally in England but remained a constant traveler in search of subjects around the Mediterranean, from Venice to the Greek islands. Some of his travel paintings, also completed in the studio (others were worked up from his lively watercolors), were sold in New York by Sotheby's this month, a few for prices that went well beyond their estimates, despite the fact that they are not numbered among his very best works.

One of these, just 91 x 71 cms., a 1909 oil of two of the artist's friends dozing in a garden in Corfu, went for an unexpected \$8.36m. Another small Sargent of men and women in a Venetian winery had a taste for raffish subjects, rendered however without ever getting grim) was sold well under its lower estimate to reach just \$1.98m. An oil of a gondola and passengers beneath the Rialto bridge went for below its estimate at \$2.2m.

Another version of this scene is in the Philadelphia Museum of Art, while the watercolor from which the composition was made is in the Boston Museum.

Sargent's weakness was his virtuosity and a Boldini-like desire to please his sitters. He is often too pretty, even if stopping short of kitsch. His sketchy oil of his friend Judith Gautier holding onto her hat in a gust of wind, painted in 1887, is on the pretty side, but a purely gestural canvas with a technique in advance of its time. It doubled its estimate at this sale to reach \$1.65m., paid by a New York dealer. Incidentally, Judith, the daughter of critic and author Theophile Gautier, was the mistress of Richard Wagner, whose music Sargent particularly admired.

SOTHEBY'S HAS announced that curator Charles Moffett will join the firm in April as co-chairman of its Impressionist and Modernist group worldwide. Once director of Washington's eclectic Phillips Collection, Moffett has held positions at a number of major American museums on both coasts. He mounted the Manet show at New York's Metropolitan and several important Impressionist exhibitions.

CHRISTOPHER REEVE'S Superman cape sold for \$19,500 at Sotheby's New York Christmas shopper sale of Hollywood and other memorabilia and toys last week. A Madonna red silk dress brought \$21,850. Paul McCartney's stage suit tripled its estimate to reach \$18,400. A Marklin clockwork paddle steamer, made around 1900, went for over five times its estimate at \$108,100. The two-day sale ran up \$1.45m.

SOTHEBY'S NEW Tel Aviv premises at 46 Sderot Rothschild, formerly known as Beit Levine or the Russian Embassy (designed in 1924 by Yehuda Magidovitch), recently underwent a dramatic restoration and renovation, complete with underground parking, planned and supervised by architect Amnon Bar-Or. Part of its new exhibition space has been inaugurated with a show of color photographs by Itamar Grinberg, documenting every phase of the restoration. It remains on view until January 15.

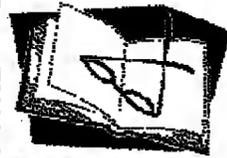
Shades of black

TRESPASSING: My Sojourn in the Halls of Privilege, by Gwendolyn M. Parker (Houghton Mifflin, 209 pp., \$23).

THE BLACK NOTEBOOKS: An Interior Journey, by Toi Derricotte (Norton, 205 pp., \$21.95).

STRAIGHT, NO CHASER: How I Became a Grown-Up Black Woman, by Jill Nelson (Putnam, 225 pp., \$23.95).

Book Review



By Lisa Funderberg

Comparisons were inevitable. Three black women, roughly the same age (give or take 15 years), write what could more or less be defined as memoirs. All of their books are published this fall, and each one contemplates what it means to be a black woman in today's America, contending with the overlapping "isms" of race, class and sex. Given pop culture's relentless penchant for commodifying and compartmentalizing, these authors are likely to show up on the same discussion panels, at the same bookstore signings and — *mea culpa* — wedged into the same book reviews.

"All my life I have passed invisibly into the white world... and I have felt that sudden and alarming moment of consciousness when I remember I am black."

—Toi Derricotte

Certainly there are similarities. But, of course, as should go without saying, these memoirs do not all look alike.

Corporate lawyer-turned-writer Gwendolyn Parker follows her acclaimed debut novel, *These Same Long Bones*, with the graceful memoir *Trespassing: My Sojourn in the Halls of Privilege*. In it, she records her absorption into and extrusion from those halls, which included the classrooms of Radcliffe and New York University, and the plushly appointed offices of American Express. She starts off with her childhood in Durham, North Carolina, where she is safely ensconced in black middle-class life, so removed from the direct assaults of white racism that she's not even sure who's white and who's not. She moves on to the rude awakening that accompanies her family's migration north to White Plains, N.Y., then on to boarding school, college and law school, and her successful years in the corporate world, which she eventually trades in for the unsteady but soul-sating life of a writer. The book ends at the brink of this transition, leaving unanswered the obvious, important question: Was it worth it?

In *The Black Notebooks: An Interior Journey*, poet Toi Derricotte subjects to harsh scrutiny episodes from her past, her failing marriage, and her struggles with depression. Derricotte's naked honesty about her discomfort with blackness — her own and other people's — is alternately compelling and desperate, as difficult and gripping to witness as a gory traffic accident. She takes on the unfinished business of her life — remembering, for example, the painful exclusion from her white neighbors' country club or her shameful fear of a group of young black men — so as to heal. "My need to keep a record," she writes in her introduction to what often reads more like a secret diary than a public document, "to remember what I had forgotten in spite of the pain, to consciously bring about the same pain again, like making myself walk on a broken leg, was really the first movement toward health." Courageous to attempt, painful to read. Recalling a conversation with her husband, whose skin is darker than hers, she writes: "Then I say the terrible thing I have never been able to say — that sometimes when I look at his color and the shape of his nose, I feel revulsion."

Finally, journalist Jill Nelson offers up more manifesto than memoir in *Straight, No Chaser: How I Became a Grown-Up Black Woman*. Nelson aims to raise the controversy bar after her last highly provocative, more cogent book, *Volunteer Slavery*, which described the difficult and ultimately unsatisfying time she

how they pursue their respective careers and relationships, but their voices couldn't be more (mercifully) distinct.

Nelson rants while Parker hums; Derricotte anguishes. Derricotte truly cuts to the bone of her pain and disappointments; Nelson offers glib critiques of ambulance-chasing civic leaders and then dips into a curious self-help mode with several lists of instructions, including a 12-step man-hunting guide. Parker, using chronology as her narrative spine, paints rich portraits of her life — funny, moving and insightful, although occasionally on a distancing, guarded remove.

Each has moments of brilliance. Derricotte poignantly describes how it feels to be an extremely fair-skinned black person: "All my life I have passed invisibly into the white world, and all my life I have felt that sudden and alarming moment of consciousness when I remember I am black. It may feel like emerging too quickly from deep in the ocean, or touching an electric fence, or like I'm a deer stuck in the headlights of an oncoming car."

Parker, reminiscing about the disgruntled voices she heard during Black Power days at Radcliffe, observes in deceptively simple language the nuanced contradictions of class and race. "The voice made sense, and I believed it. But here, out of these well-fed, well-educated Harvard throats, I suddenly did not trust it... These boys are stealing rage. I told myself... They are appropriating a roar, claiming a history that was both theirs and not theirs."

Nelson, at her best, is less brow-beater than alchemist, melding together autobiography, political belief and hard-hitting, in-your-face writing that says in no uncertain terms: Here's my truth; deal with it. She calls on these talents in a passage on women's vulnerability as she recalls an argument with her ex-husband that had spun out of control: "I wasn't aware of the ways in which everyday violence surrounds, touches and wears me down until I got popped in the head. My husband's fist opened up an enormous section of my mind I didn't even know existed, the place where I stuffed away the everyday violence experienced in my life and observed in the lives of women around me, then sealed with a strip of tape stamped with the words, 'I'm Not the Type.'" OK, maybe the writing here and throughout could have been tighter, shorter and sharper, but the content hits its mark.

Indeed, these three books, read in tandem, bit a mark they couldn't hit alone. Together, they render life in America for black women with a resonant dimensionality, an absolute truth that comes from the multiple truths of each. (AP)

Air pollution: an exhausting problem

Earthly Concerns



By D'vora Ben Shaul

Of all the innovations for environmental protection introduced in recent years, none has been more widely acclaimed or adopted than the catalytic converter to reduce noxious emissions from motor vehicles.

These devices, which reduce exhaust emissions from gasoline and diesel-burning engines by about 90 percent, are mandatory on all new vehicles produced in the industrialized world. But according to recent research at the Oeko-Institut in Freiburg, Germany, the reduced emissions are significant or not, depending on where and when one starts to count them. The researchers say the metal mining process required to produce the

converters creates so much pollution that it is difficult to see any real advantages. Each catalytic converter contains two to three grams of platinum, palladium and rhodium. All these are mined mainly in Canada, South Africa and Russia.

Because the metals occur in very low concentrations in the form of sulphides in ores, the refining process produces tons of sulfur dioxide, which leads to acid rain. While Canadian plants are equipped with sophisticated scrubbers that greatly reduce these emissions, plants in Russia have no such purifying devices, nor do most of those in South Africa. So while Canadian plants emit 1.7 kg. of sulfur dioxide per gram of precious metal harvested, Russian plants emit 10.0 kg. of sulfur dioxide to get a gram of platinum, palladium or rhodium in fact, one refining plant in Norilsk, Siberia, emits more sulfur dioxide in a year than do all the combined power plants in the US.

According to the German researchers, the Russian-based refineries emit about one quarter of the sulfur dioxide in a year that the converter is designed to emit in its lifetime. This means that for a catalytic converter to break even, the

car that houses it has to travel 25,000 kilometers — that is, at least one quarter of its projected life. This, however, is only true for converters that are made of minerals mined in Russia and, in part, in South Africa.

In North America, where more efficient scrubbers and cleaning systems are used, a converter has to travel only about 5,000 km. to break even. However, all this environmentally friendly clean-up has its price. Most of the converters outside of North America are made of Russian-mined materials, which come out less expensive in the long run. Nonetheless, the researchers are quick to note that there is some improvement in the sense that the noxious emissions are being vented into fairly unpopulated areas rather than the city streets. In some instances this is a definite advantage, although on the global level sulfur dioxide is the same material wherever it occurs.

As in the case of so many blessings, the researchers say they are constantly finding that the adage "there's no such thing as a free lunch" holds true in environmental advances just as it does in other spheres.



Vehicles like this one need a cleaner exhaust system, but sometimes the cure is no better than the disease.

Enterprising team teleports photons from one place to another

By CURT SUPLEE

Star Trek made it look easy: residents of TV's mythical Starship Enterprise teleported people from one place to another in the blink of an eye. "Beam me up, Scotty," says Captain Kirk incessantly.

It is no longer science fiction. For the first time, scientists have demonstrated a form of teleportation in a tabletop experiment.

The researchers from Austria's University of Innsbruck, who report their success in the journal *Nature*, caused something to vanish at one point and reappear instantaneously a couple of meters away in the lab even though there was no physical connection or form of communication between the two locations.

But this "something" was not a person disintegrating in one place and reassembling in another. What the Innsbruck team teleported was a physical condition: the state of a photon (a particle of light) that was destroyed in one place and simultaneously showed up in another.

Although that is not expressly precluded by the laws of physics, determining the precise state of every single subatomic particle in a human body and sending instructions to copy them elsewhere would require prohibitive amounts of data and unimaginable feats of processing.

"Even for an object as small as a bacterium," said IBM fellow Charles Bennett, one of six theorists who predicted the teleportation effect four years ago, "it would be extremely hard and would probably be more trouble than it was worth."

Unlike transfer of signals by radio or optical waves, there was absolutely no kind of connection or communication between the two locations. Instead, the information was carried by a ghostly process called "quantum teleportation."

"In theory," said Innsbruck scientist Anton Zeilinger, "there is no limit" to how far the process can send something. In a few years, the technique might make possible hugely sophisticated "quantum computers," new means of encrypting messages and novel ways to store information about unstable entities such as atoms that are just about to decay.

"It's a wonderful physical phenomenon," said Williams College physicist William Wothers, who predicted the effect along with Bennett, and now "this theoretical possibility is actually within reach."

THE LANDMARK experiment relies on two peculiarities of quantum mechanics, the often mystifying and counter-intuitive

rules that govern the behavior of matter and energy on the smallest scales. In those dimensions, physicists discovered early in this century, objects such as subatomic particles do not have specific, fixed characteristics at any given instant in time.

Instead, each particle exists in a sort of wavelike miasma of superimposed probabilities that it will have a particular position or momentum, or some other state. In fact, quantum mechanics decrees, an individual particle does not actually have any definite properties until it is measured. The act of measuring somehow forces a particle or photon suddenly to collapse into only one set of values, and destroys all the other possibilities.

A second, even weirder, peculiarity involves certain physical processes that produce pairs of particles that must by nature have opposite or complementary characteristics. For example, if one particle of the pair spins clockwise, the other must spin counterclockwise; if one photon is polarized in a certain plane, the other is polarized the opposite way.

However, like any other quantum object, neither half of these coordinated duos — called "entangled pairs" — has specific properties before it is measured. This poses some outlandish possibilities, as Albert Einstein and collaborators Boris Podolsky and Nathan Rosen noted in a famous analysis in 1935.

Suppose, they reasoned, that an entangled pair of particles, A and B, is created and each particle flies off into space in the opposite direction. According to the probabilistic requirements of quantum mechanics (which Einstein thoroughly distrusted, arguing that God "does not play dice" with the universe), neither particle has definite characteristics until it is measured.

Suppose further that one waits until the particles are millions of miles apart, and then measures particle A. That act of measurement forces A to assume one fixed set of properties out of its myriad possibilities.

But because the other half of the entangled pair, B, has to have the opposite properties, the act of measuring A instantaneously "tells" B what to be. And if the particles are millions of miles apart, that means that those instructions would somehow have to travel between A and B far faster than the speed of light, an outcome utterly forbidden by the laws of physics.

Einstein was rarely wrong. But numerous experiments have shown that the effect he contemptuously dismissed as



'Beam me up, Scotty' is no longer science fiction.

"spooky action at a distance" is a fundamental aspect of nature.

THIS IS the principle behind the Innsbruck experiment. Zeilinger and colleagues wanted to see if they could teleport quantum information between a sender and a receiver; in this case, two clusters of apparatus on an optical equipment bench.

The team created an entangled pair, and sent one photon ("A") to the sender position and the other ("B") to the receiver position a meter or two away. They then sent the receiver a third photon ("C") whose specific polarization constituted the information or "message" they wanted to transmit.

The sender equipment combined C and A and scrambled

them together into another entangled pair. Then it measured the pair, destroying both photons in the process. C's polarization was already known, and A had to be the opposite of C.

But also, by definition, A had to be the opposite of B, the photon that went to the receiver position. So if A was the opposite of C, and B was the opposite of A, then B had to be the same as C. That is, the polarization state of the C photon should have been teleported accurately to the B photon — even though the two had never been in contact.

When the experimenters looked at the photon detector at the receiver position, that is exactly what they found time after time.

The findings may hasten devel-

opment of a readable "quantum computer" in which particles exist in several superimposed states simultaneously and thus can perform various calculations simultaneously.

For example, encryption schemes use numbers so large that finding their factors takes conventional computers hours, days or weeks. But a "quantum computer" could factor a 200-digit number in minutes, and a 500-digit number before lunch," said physicist Benjamin Schumacher of Kenyon College.

"The realm of the possible is a bit bigger than we thought a few years ago," Schumacher said. The field is moving so fast that "I'm absolutely astonished about every 18 months."

(The Washington Post)

TELL ME WHY

Four colors make a rainbow

By POST SCIENCE REPORTER

I've recently bought an ink-jet printer for my computer. There are two ink containers in the machine: one for black and one for color. All colors are created from the one cartridge. It's as if I could print a multi-colored picture using only one pot of paint. My question is, how does the printer manage this?

Itana, Kibbutz Hatzor
Eli, the service manager of a Jerusalem computer supply company, explains:

Ink-jet printers use cartridges containing three basic colors — red, blue and yellow — along with black. When red and blue are mixed together, you get purple; red and yellow make orange; blue and yellow make green. But there are many more colors — hundreds of them — that can be produced by an ink-jet printer. The secret is in the amount of each basic color, plus the black, mixed together. The same basic process is involved in the printing of the newspaper on which this column appears.

How is it possible that yeast dough rises not only in a warmed oven but also in the refrigerator, but not at room temperature?

Pearl, Eilat
David Kraus of Adumim Chemicals in Ma'aleh Adumim, a company that makes baking improvers, comments:

The optimum temperature for the functioning of live yeast is 35°C. At this temperature, it most effectively ferments the sugar and produces carbon dioxide, energy and alcohol, which causes the dough to rise. However, this process takes place at a wide variety of other temperatures, including room temperature — albeit less efficiently — from those in a warmed oven to those in a refrigerator. At 0°C, the process stops, and over 50°C, the yeast is killed.

I was feeling fine when I was in a room together with two people who were constantly coughing and sneezing. Within three hours, my nose started to run and I began to cough. Is it possible for a cold virus to infect another person and show its symptoms so fast? If you have a cold and recover, and then are exposed to someone else with a cold, are you protected for some time from getting another cold?

Nurit, Ashkelon
Dr. Amos Yinnon, an infectious-disease expert at Jerusalem's Shaarei Zedek Hospital, replies:

It's impossible for one to incubate a cold or flu virus so fast; these are known to take at least a day and as long as three days between exposure and the appearance of symptoms. So in your case, you must have been infected by someone else during the few days before your cold symptoms appeared suddenly.

There are some viral diseases that appear very fast after exposure. I recall the famous case of an upper respiratory infection called Pontiac fever (a type of Legionnaire's disease) that hit — within a day — large numbers of people who visited the health department in Pontiac, Michigan.

If you get a cold and then recover, but are exposed to a different strain of rhinovirus, you're likely to get another cold. There are so many strains of cold viruses that having been sick once is not likely to protect you unless the second exposure involves exactly the same strain.

Have you always wondered about the scientific explanation for ordinary phenomena? Now you can get an answer. Mail your question to TELL ME WHY, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem, fax it to (02) 538-9527, or send it by e-mail to justie@post.co.il. Please include your first name and place of residence.

(:-) to {:-} : Do you want to go to a movie?

By JOE MOZINGO

It's a secret language among friends. It may look like a jumble of numbers and asterisks, but it's actually a growing lexicon of the mundane, offbeat and obscure. While the language doesn't have a name, young people across the US rely on it to communicate those little messages that don't warrant a long conversation: "good night," "you're on my mind," or something decidedly less friendly.

Welcome to the world of pager-speak.

By dialing numbers that look vaguely like digital letters — right-side up or upside down — the young linguists put together words and phrases. "They're on the cutting edge," said Michael Haddad, of Soft-cell Communications in Beverly Hills, California. "They're the ones re-inventing the use of the beeper."

And as young people — in their teens to their early 20s — become the fastest-growing group of pager users, companies from Motorola to MTV are scrambling to cater to them. "Young people today are using pagers as a way to stay in touch with their friends and with their families," said Caroline Mockridge, spokeswoman for MTV, which is now selling pagers. The way they stay in touch is by relaying a code that conveys a mix of standard phrases and slang.

Suzie Mouradian, a student at Pasadena High School, used to carry a frayed piece of paper around with her that decoded scores of numerical messages. When she started high school three years ago, students were just beginning to experiment with this new way to communicate.

Sometimes pager-speak is a local dialect understood only among a group of friends, but some of the beeper codes follow a logic understood across regional and school boundaries. For example, the command "go home" is written 90*401773. In the digital world, 9 looks like g, 0s are obvious Os, 4 is a legless H, 1 next to two sevens approximates the shape of an M, and 3 is a backwards E.

In New York City, Katrina Schultz spells "good morning" the same way people in the know do in Los Angeles. In the beginning, Schultz said, "I had to explain it to my boyfriend. I had to give him a list of which numbers stand for which letters."

But the code is not limited to English. In San Diego County, Tania Vergara pages her friends in Spanish.

After she types the phone number where she is, she leaves the numbers 50538 which, if rotated upside down, resembles the word "besos," or kisses. Suzie's cousin



The newest youth language — pager-speak. (Yonatan Sallinger)

likes to page her, "Hi, loser" — which is 41*700512 — or more derogatory names that she has to figure out on her own.

Pager use is thriving among high school students, in spite of laws in some states banning them from school grounds. The laws were enacted at a time when pager use had the stigma of drug dealing. Nowadays, teenagers turn the beeper signal off and keep the pagers under wraps at school.

And more and more, pagers are not only concise communication, but style. Of course, some of the codes do describe drugs and sex. For example, there's a three-digit code that means, "Want to smoke pot?"

"If somebody's got some weed, they use 420 for it," said Jon Armstrong, a high school senior. Armstrong said he heard that 420, which is used from Los Angeles to Houston to New York, originated from police codes used for marijuana busts.

The beeper terms are "something young people understand and no one else does," said A. Michael Noll, professor of communication at the University of Southern California. "It's something to distinguish themselves from older folks."

While technology moves ahead, many teenagers stick with the traditional numeric pagers because they are relatively inexpensive. Haddad says the pagers start at \$29 and the service can cost as low as \$8 a month.

Rebecca Kim, a senior at Hoover High School in Glendale, California, said creating one's own code is part of the draw of this type of communication. "When we were younger, we had a language called G language where you'd put a G before every syllable," she explained. "We'd communicate without other people being able to understand." (Los Angeles Times)

Understanding the wiring of the brain



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

Does the human brain process images from the "mind's eye" — the imagination from memory — the way it does images actually seen with the eyes? Does canvassing our memory to recall an image make it easier or harder to complete visual tasks?

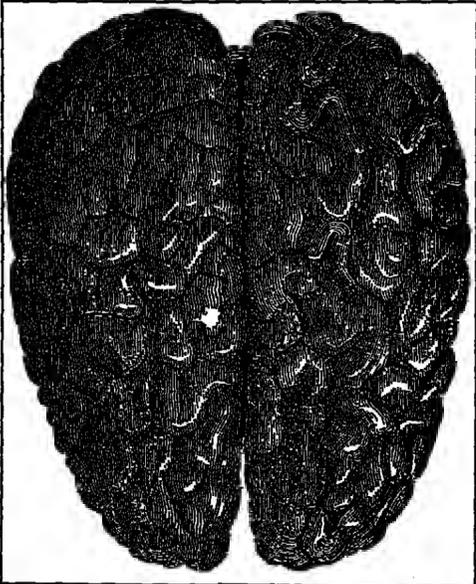
Philosophers and scientists have long sought answers to these questions, but until now studies have produced conflicting results.

Dr. Alumi Ishai, who conducted research on the subject for her doctorate at the Weizmann Institute's neurobiology department, under supervision of Prof. Dov Sagi, offers an answer — which is published in the current issue of the *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*.

Ishai and Sagi found that conjuring up images in the "mind's eye" enhances our ability to see what's really there — in effect, that imagination can enhance visual perception.

However, they found that reaching into our long-term memory to remember an image can interfere with our ability to perceive visual data. "It seems that, under certain circumstances, activating short-term memory can change the 'hard wiring' of the visual cortex, allowing people to see what they couldn't see before," said Ishai.

The team also concluded that short-term memory (such as memorizing several phone numbers) and long-term memory (such as recalling what happened months or years ago) may be governed by separate mechanisms in



A Weizmann Institute team of researchers have found that imagination can enhance visual perception.

the brain.

Anybody who has looked for a friend in a crowd intuitively knows how visual imagery operates: if one conjures up a mental image of the person, it's easier to identify him among the crowd. Memory and perception constantly work together, explained Sagi, because "whenever we see something, we identify it based on images stored in memory. Without memory, the world we perceive would be incomprehensible.

However, if memory is given too much weight, the result is hallucination."

The Rehovot team added that previous studies were unable to answer questions about the connection between imagination and memory because they made no distinction between images drawn from short- and long-term memory. For the first time, they have quantified the effects of visual imagery on perception by performing experiments in which volunteers viewed subtle points of light, known as Gabor signals, on a computer screen.

By adjusting the intensity of the points, they were able to set the exact threshold of brightness at which the light became visible to

each of the participants.

First they were shown three Gabor signals in a straight line with flanking signals located at various distances from the central signal.

As the distance between the flanking signals was increased, participants found it harder to see the central signal, eventually losing sight of it altogether. Then the brightness of the central signal was adjusted to establish a new threshold at which participants could see the target.

Then memory was utilized. Participants were shown only one Gabor signal and asked to imagine the flanking signals they had seen before.

The results were surprising. When they imagined these signals, participants could see the target more easily than in the previous trial.

Using short-term memory, they lowered the threshold of brightness at which visual perception could occur and actually improved their ability to see. However, when more time passed and the image slipped into their long-term memory, calling up the images raised the vision threshold, making the target signal more difficult to see.

Sagi and Ishai hope that with further study, it may be possible some day to use the natural power of memory to "open the eyes" of people with vision problems.

INSTANT BAGRUT ANSWERS

All the answers to matriculation exams will, from now on, be provided on the Internet within hours after the tests are conducted. The Shachar Institute, a private company that prepares students for matriculation, has set up the free service at <http://www.shachar.co.il>.

Immediately after the test is concluded, a team of teachers solves the problems and enters the answers on the Web site, thus allowing anyone who took the

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Gene repair proves a daunting challenge

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Knowledge of the human genome is growing by the month, along with awareness that thousands of diseases are caused by defective DNA—either inherited or mutated by the environment during one's lifetime.

Gene therapy would thus seem to be an obvious and ideal replacement for conventional medications, treatments and operations. Just introduce a healthy gene into the body of a patient, or even a fetus still in the womb, to "reprogram" the body's cells, and the disease is cured.

But today this is still more a theory than a therapy, as not a single person has been cured by this replacement technique. Doctors are betting on the theory, and have great expectations, but as of now, they have more questions than answers.

The German-Israeli Foundation for Scientific Research and Development (better known as GIF) organized a meeting of doctors and scientists earlier this month that focused on gene therapy. Forty-four leading experts in the field, half of them from Germany and half local, secluded themselves at the Hod Hotel on the Dead Sea for five days of formal and informal meetings on the subject.

"We expect that in the next round of applications for our research grants, gene therapy will be a prominent subject," said GIF director and microbiologist Dr. Amnon Barak in his Jerusalem office. "This will be an immediate result of our Dead Sea meetings."

Since the German and Israeli governments jointly established a DM 300 million fund whose interest would be used to finance research in a variety of fields, many basic and applied scientific research projects have been carried out. Last year, DM 20m. (NIS 45m.) was allocated to projects, with special attention given to neuroscience, immunology, biotechnology, cancer research, host-pathogen interaction and the social sciences and

humanities. All GIF projects, said Barak, must involve active collaboration between Israeli and German scientists, and their joint research program must be presented as a single coordinated proposal in which the roles and tasks of both prospective groups are clearly defined.

With the number of participants limited, to allow for an intimate interchange of ideas, GIF organizers asked gene therapy experts in both countries to hand-pick names. Barak conceded that when word of the meeting got out, his office received calls from scientists and physicians asking to be invited, but no one was included on this basis.

"It was a really excellent meeting," reported Prof. Ariella Oppenheim of the hematology department of Hadassah-University Hospital, who attended, along with colleagues from Hadassah, Carmel, Soroka, Shaare Zedek and Sheba hospitals; the Technion and the Weizmann Institute; and the Hebrew, Tel Aviv and Ben-Gurion universities. "I made more scientific contacts than I can practically deal with," said Oppenheim.

"Gene therapy is a very futuristic and promising field," she continued. "But there are many problems, including ethical ones. It has been difficult finding the proper animal models, and even when patients have shown improvement, it's difficult to prove that this is due to the gene therapy. It's also highly interdisciplinary, requiring a team effort of geneticists, physicians, virologists and others to find the answers."

TODAY'S understanding of gene therapy is the result of basic research conducted around the world four decades ago, said Barak. In the eight years since the first experiment involving human gene transfer—in which a melanoma patient received T (immune system) cells, taken from his

own body and generically modified—30 gene therapy companies have been launched. Three major gene therapy journals have been established, and more than 200 human gene therapy protocols have been approved, according to a recent clinical review in the *British Medical Journal* (BMJ).

Over 2,000 patients have received gene therapy (the vast majority of them in the US), but only a handful of patients with rare conditions have shown any improvement, and early optimism about the technique has given way to disappointment.

The main difficulty is inserting the engineered material into vectors—agents or carriers of the virus—which protect the therapeutic genes and transport them safely into the nuclei of target cells. Viruses are small enough to be potentially useful; bacteria have too much DNA and are too large to allow efficient transfer of DNA. The vectors can then turn the target cells into mini-factories to produce a controlled-release therapeutic protein to generate tissues with entirely new properties.

There are two main approaches, wrote Russell: *in-vivo*, in which genes are delivered directly to target cells in the body; and *ex-vivo*, in which these cells are removed from the body, genetically modified outside the body and then reimplanted.

Using biological or synthetic materials with genetically modified cells from humans or animals could even make possible tissue cultures for treatment of burns, trauma, degenerative diseases or organ failure.

However, despite the fact that more than 4,000 diseases are due to single defective genes, gene therapy hasn't yet been able to cure them because the vectors used so far can't remove or replace defective genes whose products may contribute to the course of the disease. It's also difficult to reach all the target cells that have to be modified. Therefore, scientists

disease, wrote Stephen Russell, a senior fellow at the Cambridge Medical Research Council Center, in the *BMJ*. But the goals of gene therapy are different and often depend on the prolonged survival of genetically engineered cells or tissues in the patient. Recent methods of cloning genes, engineering copies and transferring them into human cells have made the technique possible.

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Therefore, scientists have devoted their efforts to a few genetic diseases caused by the lack of a normal enzyme or other protein, such as cystic fibrosis, severe combined immune deficiency (the disease of "bubble babies," whose immune system is totally ineffectual) and hemophilia. Gene therapy for patients with terminal cancer, AIDS and other hopeless conditions has also been tried. But vectors available so far have not efficiently transferred the normal genes for reprogramming the cells.

Because the task is so difficult, it's impossible for a single research team to make much progress alone. That's why cooperation on gene therapy techniques is vital, said Oppenheim.

The US Food and Drug Administration recently approved the first gene-based drug for human testing. The medication, produced by Genzyme Inc. (HGS) of Rockville, Maryland, is designed to protect healthy bone-marrow cells from the toxic effects of chemotherapy drugs. The company says its product, myeloid progenitor inhibitor factor-1 (MPL-1) is the first in the world to begin human testing after being discovered by computer-driven genetic screening methods.

"Nobody [else] ... has come up with a single product yet," HGS chairman William Haselone told *The Washington Post* recently. "We hope this is the first snowflake in the coming avalanche of useful discoveries."

Barak says that the German scientists who came here for the GIF meeting "recognize Israel's abilities in basic research and the excellent reputation of its medicine. Their substantial work on vectors makes this a good match."

The GIF is fully prepared to examine research proposals on gene therapy, and will grant the winning teams DM 350,000 to DM 600,000 over a three-year period.

"We believe that our Dead Sea meeting will be a catalyst for new research," Barak says.



Western medicine's failure to scientifically document how and why acupuncture works has been the primary reason for the medical establishment's previous refusal to sanction it.

US acupuncturists no longer on pins and needles

By FRANCES GRANDY TAYLOR

In an era where there are 100 quacks for every legitimate medical claim, the endorsement of acupuncture by a US National Institutes of Health panel gives the ancient Chinese technique much-sought legitimacy. Long-time proponents of acupuncture, who believe it provides significant pain relief, say the recognition is long overdue.

An NIH advisory panel recently concluded that acupuncture—a treatment that involves injecting "tiny needles into the skin at specific points on the body—is effective in easing chronic and post-surgical pain and relieving nausea from pregnancy and chemotherapy. The recommendation follows growing demand by patients—and growing acceptance by some doctors—for the procedure, which has been a cornerstone of Chinese medicine for centuries.

"It would have been quite surprising for them not to endorse it. That would have flown in the face of all the literature that is out there," said Dr. James Dillard, medical director of the alternative medicine program at Oxford Health Plans. The company, based in Norwalk, Connecticut, extended its insurance coverage earlier this year to include acupuncture, becoming one of a handful of companies that cover the procedure.

The NIH panel also found that acupuncture is useful as a complementary treatment for drug addiction, chronic headaches, muscle pain, tennis elbow, carpal tunnel syndrome and lower back pain. "It's not a

panacea, but clearly we don't have all the answers in traditional medical treatment," said Dr. Mitchell Prywes, a Danbury, Connecticut, physician who specializes in physical rehabilitation. Prywes is one of a small but growing number of doctors who use acupuncture along with conventional treatments.

Gina Pin, a patient of Prywes, began acupuncture treatments, in conjunction with physical therapy, several years ago after a series of tests and exploratory operations failed to find a cause for her muscle pain. "It was an incredible relief," Pin said. "It worked right from the first treatment. I have no idea why it works, but it's amazing."

Western medicine's failure to scientifically document how and why acupuncture works has been the primary reason for the medical establishment's previous refusal to sanction the procedure.

Researchers are not certain how best to study acupuncture. Many studies have involved only a small number of patients and lacked the rigorous testing that doctors are used to seeing in research. The NIH endorsement could increase research funds, Prywes said. "One of the things doctors like to see is research before they feel comfortable endorsing it for their patients." Oxford Health Plans is working with a Harvard University physician studying acupuncture; results are expected to be released next year, Dillard said.

Acupuncture treatment is based on the belief that good health is determined by a balanced flow of *chi*, or life energy, through the body. *Chi* is said to

circulate along 12 major energy pathways, called meridians, which are each linked to specific organs and organ systems. Researchers believe that stimulation by the needles releases chemical reactions in the body that alleviate pain. Proponents say the treatment has no adverse side effects and carries less risk than some medications. About 3,000 physicians and 9,000 acupuncture practitioners across the US offer the treatment.

Despite the lack of hard data, acupuncture also has gained acceptance as complementary treatment for drug addiction. More than 300 clinics around the US and a third of court-ordered drug programs use acupuncture, said Arthur Margolin, a research scientist at Yale University Medical School. Margolin is conducting research into acupuncture and cocaine addiction.

One of the best-known drug addiction programs in the country, run by Dr. Michael Smith at New York's Lincoln Hospital, has used auricular acupuncture (needles through the ear) on more than 200 patients a day for the last decade, with good results, Margolin said.

Prywes said the endorsement, though important, is just the beginning. "A lot of doctors out there still consider it voodoo medicine. Much education still needs to be done. We believe that non-physicians who perform acupuncture need to work in concert with physicians. Acupuncture should be integrated into conventional care so that if there are other medical concerns, they can be addressed." (The Hartford Courant)

Better care for Hansen's disease, but patients still treated as lepers

By DENIS D. GRAY

Forty-five years ago, Nung Kaniha contracted an easily curable disease, but it forced her to leave her family and community forever. They were convinced her clawed finger and discolored skin were punishment for sins in a past life. Since then, she has lived in one of Thailand's last leper colonies, the pioneering McKean Rehabilitation Center.

For Nung and 100 other leprosy patients living out their days on a river island, the country's successful drive to eradicate the once rampant and dreaded disease came a generation too late. "Many times I tried to find poison to commit suicide," she says. "But now I'm at peace. I've put myself into God's hands, and I rely on my doctor for medicine," she adds, referring to Dr. Trevor Smith of Australia, who heads McKean's medical staff.

As Nung knits a purple sweater, deftly using her 10 shriveled fingers, the center's assistant director, Heather Smith, comes forward with a bag and encourages her. "They need total care. They have no other option," says Smith, who with her husband, has worked at the center since 1969, when more than 700 leprosy sufferers lived there. McKean also has supported 15 leprosy villages "rejected

enclosures"—with their own farms and schools, because local villages would not accept the diseased or their children, Smith adds.

Medicine's war on leprosy has made great strides this century, cutting the rate of infection by two-thirds in just the last decade. The UN World Health Organization reported 890,000 victims at the beginning of this year, compared to approximately 15 million in 1987.

ALSO CALLED Hansen's disease, leprosy is a bacteria-triggered illness of the nervous system. Although its victims were ostracized for millennia in virtually every part of the world, leprosy is neither fatal nor highly contagious. A cure has existed for a half century. If the disease is detected in its early stages, the drug dapsone was long used to knock out the disease, but since the mid-1980s multi-drug therapy has been used. Without early treatment, victims can suffer clawed hands, distorted features and other deformities through damage to the nervous system.

Over the last three decades, a Thai public health program stressed the disease is not highly contagious and sought to strip away folklore and the stigma that kept victims from seeking care until it was too late. Bhumibol Adulyadej, Thailand's bigly

revered king, established a leprosy foundation and urged the public not to treat lepers as outcasts.

Today, Thailand reports some 3,000 registered leprosy patients. "The bacillus is still around, but it's more a social than a medical problem," Smith says. "Even those cured are still stigmatized. I ask people, 'You probably had mumps as a child, but are you still called a mump?'"

Although it happens less frequently than in the past, Buddhist temples sometimes refuse to cremate leprosy sufferers after death and retail buyers shun handicrafts produced by patients at McKean for fear of "catching germs." Smith says there are medical workers reluctant to make contact with those who seek treatment.

But now almost all patients are sent home after treatment, with the McKean staff providing them with jobs, counseling and other help in their own villages. The leprosy villages have now merged with surrounding communities, and McKean's modern rehabilitation center cares for people with a variety of handicaps. Along with donations, the nearly 90-year-old center generates income from its own fruit orchards, farms and workshops that produce furniture, lacquer ware, woven fabrics and other handicrafts. (Associated Press)

Depression not a natural part of aging

Health Scan



By Post Health Reporter

Depression in the elderly is an often-undiagnosed malady, as many people think it's a natural part of growing old, like wrinkles and white hair. However, it can be treated and significantly improve the quality of life in old people, according to gerontological psychiatrists.

The latest issue of *Kupat Holim Clalit's Etanin* monthly magazine notes there is a clear difference between clinical depression and "a bad mood." The latter is short-lived, like a sore throat or a fever, while the former doesn't pass by itself and needs treatment.

Among the symptoms of depression in the elderly (or people of any age) is deep sadness, lack of interest in what is happening around them, hopelessness, reduction in cognitive abilities, low self-esteem, disquiet, a pessimistic world view, reduced appetite, sleeping difficulties and even severe constipation.

Dr. Simona Naor, head of the outpatient psychiatric unit at Kaplan Hospital in Rehovot, explains that although depression is regarded as a mental illness, biological factors—including neurotransmitter function in the brain—are involved. Neurotransmitter imbalance can occur suddenly and without explanation, but can be repaired with a new generation of medications called SSRIs. These prevent the vital neurotransmitter serotonin from "escaping" to receptors in the central nervous system and causing these symptoms; other effective drugs include Prozac (fluoxetine) and Favoxil.

BIOLOGICAL CLOCKS Melatonin can ease disruptions in people's biological clocks, but

if it isn't taken on a regular basis, it is of no use. This is the finding of Sheba Hospital researchers who conducted the "first-ever" long-term comprehensive study of melatonin use in patients with delayed sleep phase syndrome (DSPS). Such people are awake at night and tired during the day.

Sixty-one people participated in the study—37 men and 24 women—after being tested for DSPS at Sheba's sleep lab over a period of four to seven days. The average sufferer went to bed at 3 a.m. and woke up at 11:30 a.m. They were given melatonin daily at 10 p.m. over a period of six weeks.

Up to a year-and-a-half after the end of treatment, they were sent questionnaires. Fully 96.7% reported that melatonin (a hormone like the natural substance produced in the brain's pineal gland) helped them start a normal sleep cycle within days. But 91.5% said they had returned to their old biological clock after they stopped taking it. Thus it seems DSPS is a chronic condition, like diabetes, that needs regular treatment.

Melatonin can be obtained in Israel only by a doctor's prescription—unlike the US, where it is sold freely in health-food stores. Doctors warn little is known about whether taking melatonin over a long period and in high doses is harmful.

MAYO COOPERATION The world-famous Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, and the Rappaport Family Institute for Research in the Medical Sciences at the Haifa Technion have two things in common. Both sponsor high-level medical research and receive significant financial support from Bruce Rappaport, the Geneva-based oil and banking magnate and philanthropist.

Now, due to this support, a program of mutual cooperation and research has been launched with the first Rappaport-Mayo Symposium on Vascular Biology. A delegation of Mayo researchers came to Israel recently to take part in the one-week symposium, which initiated joint research projects.

Among the subjects discussed were the latest developments in



Depression in the elderly is an often-undiagnosed malady, but it can be treated. (Israel Talley)

the treatment of atherosclerosis and other cardiovascular disorders, including molecular and genetic approaches to these diseases, gene transfer therapies, catheterization and new stent (vessel wall support) designs.

FRESH HUTZPA The Health Ministry is boiling over efforts by the marketer of a mini-dishwasher for office coffee cups—called Fresh Cup—to sell its product using the ministry's name. Ads on the radio and in newspapers have been claiming that the ministry found "100% of all wash-up sponges" used in offices are contaminated "with dangerous viruses and bacteria."

The ministry said one of its staffers checked "only a handful" of such sponges and that it never allowed the company to use its name. Its legal adviser, Miri Heubner-Harel, demanded that the Israel Broadcasting Authority take

the ads off the air and that the advertiser stop using the misleading information.

HIV AND HEPATITIS B An Italian man became infected with both HIV and hepatitis B after being head-bumped by another man after a car accident. According to a story in *The Lancet*, the victim was wearing metal-framed glasses on his forehead, and the force was enough to leave imprints on both men's foreheads and cause heavy bleeding.

The attacker was an intravenous drug user and had tested positive for HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C six years ago. DNA tests showed that the man who bumped the other with his head had indeed infected the victim with the two viruses.

But hepatitis C did not develop, probably because levels of the virus in his blood were too low to cause infection.

Robi 15,000

FINANCIAL MARKETS

Nikkei plunges 3.25% to below 15,000 level

Tokyo stocks sank deeply on Friday, wiping out gains built over the past two days, as the market was haunted by fears that Japanese banks' tight lending stance might trigger more corporate failures, brokers said.

They said the market was likely to stay nervous amid concerns over the financial health of some Japanese firms.

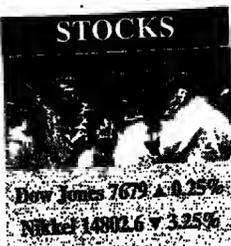
The key 225-share Nikkei average lost 497.50 points or 3.25 percent to close at 14,802.60.

Worries that relatively small firms, which depend on banks for funds, may fail before the end of 1997 has prompted many stock dealers to close their positions, said Akishige Ishikura, analyst at Dai-ichi Securities Co Ltd.

South Korean markets, meanwhile, reacted euphorically on Friday to an agreement to speed up IMF-led aid payments, but traders said it would be short-lived because of concerns over the impact the deal may have on the economy.

Traders said South Korea's agreement to stiffen reforms in return for faster disbursement of nearly \$60 billion in bailout loans would lead to more hardship for Korean firms.

Stock investors also hailed the deal, announced at midnight on Wednesday, and stocks soared across the board. The composite index ended the morning session up 6.88 percent or 24.18 points at 375.63, after peaking at 376.84.



Dow Jones 7679.4, Nikkei 14802.6

"The overseas markets, particularly in Korea, had a reasonably good night, and that provided us with the impetus to rally at the open," said Phil Orlando, chief investment officer at Value Line's Asset Management.

South Korea's main stock index closed up 6.74% on Friday. The 30-year Treasury bond, a bellwether of long-term interest rates, gained 5/32, or \$1,562.50 on a \$1,000 bond, to yield 5.90 percent, down from 5.91 percent at Wednesday's close.

Bond prices and yields move in opposite directions.

US stocks, the dollar and bonds ended higher on Friday in holiday-shortened sessions amid heightened worries over the fate of the Japanese economy and as South Korean stocks edged higher.

Stock trading closed early in an abbreviated post-Christmas session as overnight gains in South Korean stocks helped persuade investors to ferment out bargains.

The Dow Jones industrial average index ended up 19.19 points, or 0.25%, at 7,679.31.

In the broader market, advancing issues led declines by 1,441 to 1,198. Volume was thinnest for the year at 156 million shares in a session that ended three hours early at 1 p.m. EST.

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Robinson breaks 15,000 career points

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — David Robinson reached 15,000 career points, scoring 34 as the Spurs won their seventh straight, beating Boston 101-86.

Robinson reached the plateau in the second quarter when he scored his 13th point. He is 78th on the National Basketball Association's career scoring list.

Tim Duncan added 23 points, 15 rebounds and a career-high eight blocked shots and Monty Williams added 16 points.

The Celtics, who shot only 41.6 percent from the field, had their four-game winning streak snapped. Antoine Walker led Boston with 21 points.

Pacers 107, Magic 81
In Indianapolis, Rick Smith took advantage of the absence of Ronny Seikaly and scored 15 of his 20 points in the first quarter as the Indiana Pacers cruised to a 107-81 victory over the Orlando Magic on Friday night.

Fred Hoiberg added a season-high 20 points — 15 coming in the fourth quarter when the outcome was already decided.

Smith, guarded by Danny Schayes in the first quarter because Seikaly was out with the flu, shot 9-of-12 in the first half and wasn't needed after the midpoint of the third quarter as Indiana was building a lead that grew as high as 32 points.

Indiana shot a season-high 63 percent from the field in winning its eighth consecutive home game.

Hornets 96, Cavaliers 88
In Charlotte, David Wesley scored six of his 20 points in the final 3:36 to help Charlotte over Cleveland, which lost Shawn Kemp and Brevin Knight for long stretches with injuries.

Wesley added five assists and two steals as the Hornets won for the seventh time in 10 games. Glen Rice led Charlotte with 26 points and Vlade Divac had 23 points and 11 rebounds.

Timberwolves 116, Nets 96
Stephen Marbury bowed to the crowd as he exited the court after keying a 16-0 run in the fourth quarter that carried host Minnesota past New Jersey.

Marbury walked to the end of the floor and bowed to the fans after scoring six of his 22 points and forcing Sam Cassell to foul out during the deciding run, which began with the Wolves clinging to an 82-79 lead.

Heat 88, Pistons 74
Miami extended their record 3-

point streak to 320 consecutive games, making nine 3s — including five toward the end of the second and third quarters — in a victory over Detroit at Auburn Hills, Michigan.

Michael Lenz, Jamal Mashburn and Tim Hardaway hit 3-pointers in the final 88 seconds of the second quarter to give the Heat a 49-38 halftime lead, and Lenz hit two more and Hardaway one to close the third quarter with the Heat leading 69-53.

Lenard and Hardaway had 16 points each for Miami, which shot 9-of-25 on 3-pointers compared to the Pistons' 2-for-9.

Wizards 97, Mavericks 95
In Dallas, Calbert Cheaney had a key steal and layup with 10 seconds left to thwart Dallas' late rally as Washington won its sixth straight and extended the Mavericks' losing streak to 11 games.

Cheaney paced the Wizards with 21 points, followed by Juwan Howard and Tracy Murray with 20 points each.

Dallas had a late 13-6 run and closed to 93-92 with 22.7 seconds left on a 3-pointer by Dennis Scott.

Golden State 81, Nuggets 69
At Denver, Erick Dampier matched his career-high with 19 points as Golden State completed a holiday-interrupted, back-to-back sweep of cold-shooting Denver.

Joe Smith added 14 points. Bimbo Coles had 10 and Donyell Marshall grabbed nine rebounds for the Warriors, who won for the fifth time in their last 10 games — including a 12-point home victory over Denver on Tuesday.

Bucks 99, Hawks 94, OT
Playing at home, Milwaukee prevented Atlanta from setting an NBA record for consecutive overtime victories by beating the Hawks behind 14 points and 16 rebounds from Tyrone Hill.

The Hawks had won 11 consecutive overtime games, a streak that dated back to the 1994-95 season.

Elliot Perry, playing in place of the injured Terrell Brandon, had 17 points in 38 minutes and shot 8-for-13 from the floor. Hill had nine of his rebounds on the offensive end for the Bucks, who extended Atlanta's losing streak to four games.

Suns 118, Grizzlies 100
In Vancouver, Cedric Ceballos equalled a season high with 23 points and Jason Kidd had 13 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists as Phoenix defeated Vancouver.

Ceballos, starting in place of Cliff Robinson, had 17 points in the first half as the Suns won their fourth straight.

Antonio McDyess chipped in 16 points for the Suns and Danny Manning came off the bench for 14 points and seven rebounds.

Robinson went 11-for-13 from the free throw line and finished with 13 points.

Soles 111, Kings 95
Vin Baker had 26 points and 16 rebounds and Gary Payton had 22 points and 12 assists as Seattle, with a second-half surge, defeated host Sacramento.

It was the 16th win in 19 games for Seattle, which held Mitch Richmond to one field goal over the final 14 minutes and used a 22-7 run in the third quarter to pull away for good.

Lakers 118, Clippers 114, OT
Nick Van Exel scored 30 points and Rick Fox added seven of his 20 in overtime as host Los Angeles Lakers outlasted the cross-town Clippers 118-114 Friday night.

Loezen Wright scored a career-high 32 points and grabbed 15 rebounds for the Clippers, who are 5-30 at the Forum since moving from San Diego to Los Angeles in 1984.

Wright, who became the first member of the Clippers to have a 30-point outing this season, is averaging 17 rebounds over his last six games.

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	18	8	.687	—
New York	16	11	.593	2
Orlando	16	12	.571	2 1/2
New Jersey	14	12	.538	3 1/2
Washington	15	14	.517	4
Boston	13	13	.500	4 1/2
Philadelphia	8	19	.290	11

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	17	10	.630	—
Utah	17	10	.630	—
Houston	14	10	.583	1 1/2
Minnesota	13	14	.481	4
Vancouver	10	18	.357	7 1/2
Dallas	5	23	.179	12 1/2
Denver	2	24	.077	14 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
LA Lakers	22	6	.786	—
Seattle	17	6	.738	—
Phoenix	17	6	.738	—
Portland	15	10	.600	5 1/2
Sacramento	10	18	.357	12 1/2
Golden State	7	18	.261	14 1/2
LA Clippers	5	24	.172	17 1/2

Hasek stands firm as Sabres blank Rangers

BUFFALO (AP) — Dominik Hasek stopped 28 shots for his fifth shutout in 11 games this month, leading the Buffalo Sabres to a 3-0 victory over the New York Rangers on Friday night.

It was Hasek's second shutout in five days over the Rangers.

He made 33 saves in Buffalo's 2-0 victory Sunday at Madison Square Garden.

Defenseman Jason Woolley scored the only goal Hasek needed in the second period for the Sabres. Dixon Ward made it 2-0 when he scored on a hard slap shot with 5:06 remaining, and Michal Grosse scored into an empty net with 25 seconds left.

Hasek, who has 26 career shutouts, lowered his goals-against average to 2.53 in 32 games this year.

Penguins 4, Capitals 1
In Washington, Jaromir Jagr had two goals and an assist as the Pittsburgh Penguins defeated the Washington Capitals.

Pittsburgh snapped a four-game winless streak. Washington is 1-4-4 in its last nine games.

Devils 4, NY Islanders 3
In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Randy McKay scored his second goal of the game with 3:08 to play and the New Jersey Devils rallied from a two-goal deficit to beat the New York Islanders.

The win snapped the Devils' season-high three-game winless streak (0-1-2) and gave New Jersey a 3-0 record against the Islanders this season.

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	T	Pts
New Jersey	14	2	2	111
Philadelphia	21	9	7	105
Washington	16	14	8	100
NY Islanders	15	17	5	101
NY Rangers	11	17	12	100
Florida	13	20	5	85
Tampa Bay	12	22	2	85

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Central Division				
	W	L	T	Pts
Dallas	25	8	7	121
Detroit	23	8	7	120
St. Louis	22	13	5	115
Phoenix	15	18	7	103
Toronto	13	18	5	91
Chicago	12	18	7	81

Friday's games: Pittsburgh 4, Washington 1; Florida 5, Carolina 2; Buffalo 3, NY Rangers 0; New Jersey 4, NY Islanders 3; Detroit 4, Toronto 1; Chicago 4, St. Louis 1.

SPORTS

in brief

Pippen practices, no date yet for comeback

CHICAGO (AP) — Scottie Pippen practiced with the Chicago Bulls on for the first time in three weeks, then dropped a few hints about his future. "I'm just trying to get myself healthy," he said Friday. "If I have to come back and play here then, you know, that may be the way it has to be." The All-Star NBA guard and forward has not played this season while recovering from foot surgery. He also has demanded to be traded by an organization he claims doesn't respect him, although he has softened that stance recently. He refused to comment further Friday on when — or where — he might play when he returns. "Right now I'm just trying to get myself ready to where I can get back on the court and play a game, period," he said.

Kansas' LaFrentz injured

HONOLULU (AP) — Kansas forward Raef LaFrentz will be sidelined for up to six weeks with a broken right index finger. Coach Roy Williams said Eric Chenoweth came across LaFrentz's Friday in preparation for the Rainbow Classic. The No. 2 Jayhawks (14-1) play Ohio State on Sunday in the opening round of the eight-team tournament. LaFrentz, a 6-foot-11 senior projected by some to be the No. 1 overall pick in June's NBA draft, is averaging 21.2 points and 11.4 rebounds.

ICC ready to act over abandoned one-dayer

CALCUTTA (Reuters) — World cricket chiefs are ready to take action after a one-day match between India and Sri Lanka was abandoned on Thursday because the pitch was unfit for play. Jagmohan Dalmiya, the International Cricket Council (ICC) president, said on Friday: "The abandoning of a match due to unfit conditions anywhere in the world is deplorable and a step backward for the development of the game." "We will take action after scrutinizing the reports. The issue will not be swept under the carpet." Match referee Ahmed Ebrahim of Zimbabwe took the unprecedented step of abandoning the limited overs game at Indore — the second in a three-match series — after just three overs. Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Jayant Lele said in Bombay the committee would examine various aspects of the suitability of Indian venues for hosting international matches. Lele said the committee would probe the Indore incident and inspect all other venues in the country.

Favre, Sanders tie for NFL's MVP Award

NEW YORK (AP) — In the first tie for NFL most valuable player since 1960, Brett Favre earned an unprecedented third straight award, sharing the honor with 2,000-yard nusher Barry Sanders yesterday. In balloting conducted by AP, the Green Bay quarterback and the Detroit running back each collected 13 votes from a nationwide panel of 48 sports writers and broadcasters. Favre, who easily won the award the past two years, led the league in touchdown passes (35) and was second in yards passing with 3,867. He is the unquestioned leader of the defending Super Bowl champions, a

strong consideration among voters. Sanders became the third player to rush for 2,000 yards in a season when he gained 2,053, second most in league history. Only one of the others, O.J. Simpson in 1973, earned MVP honors; Eric Dickerson, who holds the NFL record with 2,105 yards, was beaten out by Dan Marino in 1984. Earlier in the week, Sanders was selected the league's Offensive Player of the Year. He also was a unanimous selection to the AP All-Pro team. Favre was selected to the AP All-Pro team for the third consecutive year. Denver running back Davis finished a distant third in the MVP balloting with four votes. He was followed by San Francisco quarterback Steve Young with three; 49ers tackle Dana Stubblefield, the Defensive Player of the Year, and Pittsburgh running back Jerome Bettis with two each, and Steelers defensive back Carnell Lake with one. Other Packers to win the award were Paul Hornung in 1961, Jim Taylor in 1962 and Bart Starr in 1966. Schmidt was the only other Lion to win it.

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DEADLINES

Jerusalem - weekdays: 12 noon the day before publication; for Friday 4 p.m. on Thursday. Tel Aviv and Haifa - weekdays: 12 noon, 2 days before publication; for Friday and Sunday: 4 p.m. Thursday in Tel Aviv and 12 noon Thursday in Haifa.

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DWELLINGS

Jerusalem Area

RAMOT ALEPH, 3 rooms, 75 meters, 2nd floor. Tel. 02-586-0416 (home), 02-670-3222 (work, item), (NS).

AHUZA YERUSHALYIM, 5, garden, private entrance, parking (on private land), immediate. \$380,000. Tel. 02-566-0571. 1222. E-mail: portico@netvision.net.il

HABITAT REAL ESTATE, Kiryat Moshe, 5, new, Succah balcony, \$425,000. Rehavia, 6, spacious, balconies, needs work, \$480,000. Tel. Dafna, 02-561-1222. (68) E-mail: portico@netvision.net.il

WHERE TO STAY

BED & BREAKFAST, Warm atmosphere, private shower, TV in room, many extras. French Hill, Jerusalem \$50 for a single, \$50 for a couple. Tel. 02-561-0570, Fax: 02-561-1395. E-Mail: ba@ba.com.il

DWELLINGS

Tel Aviv

RENTALS

RAMAT AVIV GIMMEL + Azazel Chen, luxurious 4/5 rooms, furnished/unfurnished. YALE REALTOR (MALDAN), Tel. 03-642-8253. (68)

SALES

LUXURY APARTMENTS AND PENTHOUSE in the Opera Tower, available immediately. Call now to Dafna, Tel. 03-648-9498, 052-538-487. (790018)

BUSINESS OFFERS

Jerusalem

OPPORTUNITIES

CAFE-RESTAURANT FOR RENT, w/ license, Rivlin Mall + equipment, Tel. 02-624-8506, 052-233961. (13790)

SERVICES

General

LESSONS

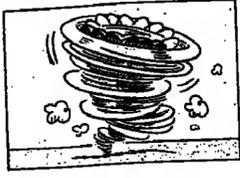
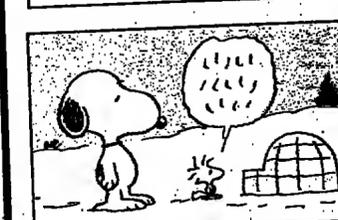
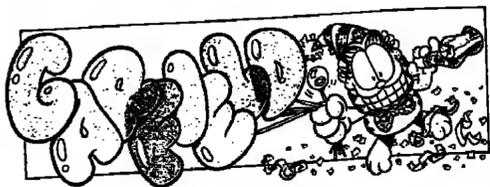
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SITUATIONS VACANT

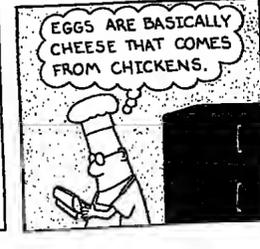
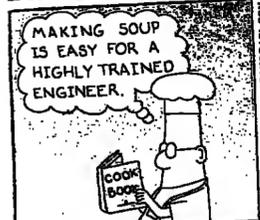
General

OFFICE STAFF

PHILIPPINE, M



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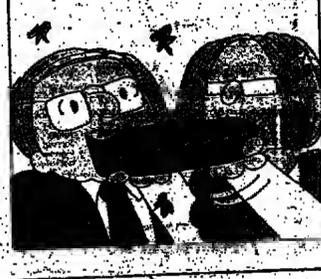
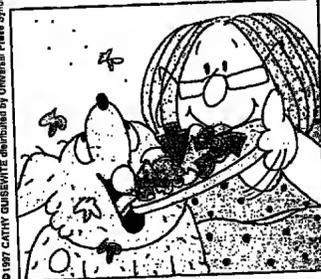
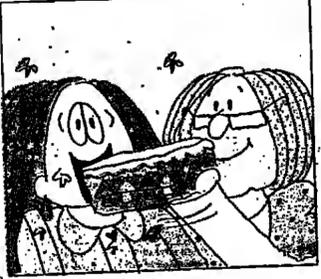
BY SCOTT ADAMS

BY CATHY GUISEWITE

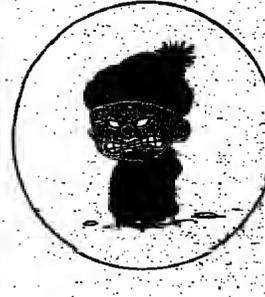
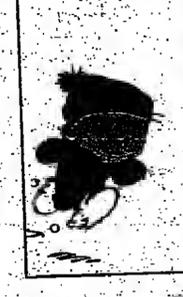
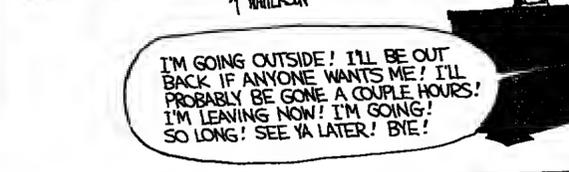
Doonesbury BY G. B. TRUDEAU



CATHY



calvin and Hobbes BY WATSON



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CRITICS' CHOICE

YIDDISH FESTIVAL

HELEN KAYE

Songstress Nehama Handel sings together with Ruth Levin and friends at the second International Yiddish Festival that starts today. Tonight at the Neveh Ilan Resort Hotel at 7.

YIDDISH THEATER

HELEN KAYE

Alein is die Neshume Rein is mamalshen's succinct way of saying that the lone soul is an empty place, and who better to put the point across than Yankele Bodo, who has been making people laugh and cry for years? The Yiddish production is directed by Shmuel Atzmon tonight at the Haifa Theater at 8. (Yiddish with simultaneous Hebrew translation.)

DANCE

HELEN KAYE

A treat for the whole family: the Israel Ballet in Cinderella dances to Prokofiev's lively music, with choreography by Berta Yampolsky. At the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center today and through Wednesday at 6 p.m. Tomorrow at 11 a.m.

ENTERTAINMENT

HELEN KAYE

Hebrew song is the headliner in Ashdod, which celebrates Hanukka and 50 years of statehood with singalongs and the lovely sounds of 80 choirs from around the country singing the Hebrew songs that symbolize what's best about this country. Songwriter Ehud Manor and composer Nurit Hirsch have written "It Sounds Better in Hebrew" for the occasion; it will be sung by Liora. The choirs will appear in groups of four at 20 community centers across the city as part of its three-day Hanukka bash. Tonight



Sergiu Comissiona leads the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra as part of the Liturgica Festival, tonight in Jerusalem.

and tomorrow night at Beit Yad Lehanim at 10. For tickets: 1-800-733555.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Sergiu Comissiona leads the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra-IBA in Mendelssohn's impressive oratorio Elijah with the Monteverdi Choir from Hamburg and a group of international soloists as part of the Liturgica Festival. Tonight (8:30) at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem.

The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra is celebrating Dvorak's rich melodic beauty with a concert devoted to the Czech composer's most beloved works, including the ever-popular ninth (better known as the "New World") symphony and the glorious Carnival overture, while Andras Schiff plays Dvorak's piano concerto. Tonight at the Jerusalem International Convention Center, Tuesday to Thursday at the Haifa Auditorium, and Friday at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv. 8:30 p.m. except Friday at 2.

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11:30 Echo Point 12:00 The Champion - New Zealand teen loses prejudice when a black American comes to stay 13:00 The Adventures of the Bush Patrol 13:30 Sport TV 14:00 Home and Away 14:30 To The Top 15:00 Blessfully Happy 15:30 Barney's Friends 16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful 16:50 5th Hanuka candle 17:00 Five with Rafi 17:05 The Great Escape 18:00 Soccer Special - live: Haifa vs. AC Milan 19:55 Bruno - Shimon Bar-Aza takes a swipe at Israeli society in a 50th anniversary retrospective 20:00 News 20:30 It'll Be OK 21:00 Feet with Lane Clayen - a look at poverty in a live broadcast from Oklaheim 22:20 Bruno - more from Series 22:30 Florentine 23:10 Night Meeting with Kobi Medyan - with 14:30 Johnny Quest; Magic School Bus 15:00 Energy Express

CHANNEL 3 (33)

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Sports Editors Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Kirsten resists as Australia take charge

MELBOURNE (Reuters) - Gary Kirsten provided the only resistance with an unbeaten half-century as South Africa's top order collapsed in reply to Australia's first innings total of 309 in the first Test yesterday.

The left-handed opener proved unflappable as the tourists struggled to 94 for four from 56 overs at close of play on the second day at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, still 215 runs behind.

Leg-spinner Shane Warne, who claimed the vital wicket of South African captain Hansie Cronje for a second-ball duck, loomed as a growing threat on a pitch offering bounce and turn.

Earlier, Ricky Ponting scored 105, his second Test century, after Australia resumed on 206 for four.

Batting at No. 6, Ponting hit 14 fours and faced 199 balls to reach his century in 262 minutes.

Ponting's aggressive strokeplay contrasted sharply with the conservative approach adopted by other batsmen on both sides, including Steve Waugh, who added nine runs to his overnight score before falling on 96.

Ponting and Waugh featured in a fifth-wicket partnership worth 145 runs, reviving Australia's fortunes after they were reduced to 77 for four at one stage on Friday.

Ponting was bowled without playing a shot, deceived in flight and turn by veteran off-spinner Pat Symcox off the last ball before lunch.

The dismissal helped 37-year-old Symcox record his best figures in Test cricket - four for 69 in 27.2 overs - and gave a hint of the menace Warne would pose later.

South Africa were forced on the defensive at the start of their innings. Opener Adam Bachler struggled for almost an hour to score three runs, while Cullinan needed 29 balls to score his five runs in an unconvincing stay at the crease.

Fast bowler Glenn McGrath proved his value to Australia by removing number three Jacques Kallis for 15.

Australia first innings: M. Elliott c Richardson b Klusener 5; M. Taylor c Kallis b McGrath 20; G. Blignaut c Richardson b Symcox 28; M. Waugh not out 57; S. Waugh c Cullinan b Donald 57; R. Ponting b Symcox 105; L. Healy b Donald 16; P. Kallis b Symcox 15; S. Warne not out 107; M. Kasprowicz c Bachler b Symcox 0; G. McGrath not out 12; Extras (nb-3, rb-2, lb-1) 12; Total (121.2 overs) 309 (27.2 overs); Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-57, 3-78, 4-78, 5-105, 6-105, 7-105, 8-105, 9-105, 10-105, 11-105, 12-105, 13-105, 14-105, 15-105, 16-105, 17-105, 18-105, 19-105, 20-105, 21-105, 22-105, 23-105, 24-105, 25-105, 26-105, 27-105, 28-105, 29-105, 30-105, 31-105, 32-105, 33-105, 34-105, 35-105, 36-105, 37-105, 38-105, 39-105, 40-105, 41-105, 42-105, 43-105, 44-105, 45-105, 46-105, 47-105, 48-105, 49-105, 50-105, 51-105, 52-105, 53-105, 54-105, 55-105, 56-105, 57-105, 58-105, 59-105, 60-105, 61-105, 62-105, 63-105, 64-105, 65-105, 66-105, 67-105, 68-105, 69-105, 70-105, 71-105, 72-105, 73-105, 74-105, 75-105, 76-105, 77-105, 78-105, 79-105, 80-105, 81-105, 82-105, 83-105, 84-105, 85-105, 86-105, 87-105, 88-105, 89-105, 90-105, 91-105, 92-105, 93-105, 94-105, 95-105, 96-105, 97-105, 98-105, 99-105, 100-105, 101-105, 102-105, 103-105, 104-105, 105-105.

South Africa first innings: M. Elliott c Richardson b Klusener 5; M. Taylor c Kallis b McGrath 20; G. Blignaut c Richardson b Symcox 28; M. Waugh not out 57; S. Waugh c Cullinan b Donald 57; R. Ponting b Symcox 105; L. Healy b Donald 16; P. Kallis b Symcox 15; S. Warne not out 107; M. Kasprowicz c Bachler b Symcox 0; G. McGrath not out 12; Extras (nb-3, rb-2, lb-1) 12; Total (121.2 overs) 309 (27.2 overs); Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-57, 3-78, 4-78, 5-105, 6-105, 7-105, 8-105, 9-105, 10-105, 11-105, 12-105, 13-105, 14-105, 15-105, 16-105, 17-105, 18-105, 19-105, 20-105, 21-105, 22-105, 23-105, 24-105, 25-105, 26-105, 27-105, 28-105, 29-105, 30-105, 31-105, 32-105, 33-105, 34-105, 35-105, 36-105, 37-105, 38-105, 39-105, 40-105, 41-105, 42-105, 43-105, 44-105, 45-105, 46-105, 47-105, 48-105, 49-105, 50-105, 51-105, 52-105, 53-105, 54-105, 55-105, 56-105, 57-105, 58-105, 59-105, 60-105, 61-105, 62-105, 63-105, 64-105, 65-105, 66-105, 67-105, 68-105, 69-105, 70-105, 71-105, 72-105, 73-105, 74-105, 75-105, 76-105, 77-105, 78-105, 79-105, 80-105, 81-105, 82-105, 83-105, 84-105, 85-105, 86-105, 87-105, 88-105, 89-105, 90-105, 91-105, 92-105, 93-105, 94-105, 95-105, 96-105, 97-105, 98-105, 99-105, 100-105, 101-105, 102-105, 103-105, 104-105, 105-105.

AC Milan face combined Haifa side at Kiryat Eliezer

By ORI LEWIS

Famed Italian soccer club AC Milan arrived here yesterday and will this evening play a combined Haifa side in a friendly game at Kiryat Eliezer (kickoff 18:00).

The Italians, who until this season were the most feared side in Serie A, are spending some of their Christmas break in Israel.

In the light of their poor season - not only by their own very high standards - they may seek divine assistance in the Holy Land.

Today, however, they will fight it out against a Haifa side made up by players from both Maccabi and Hapoel players coached by Hapoel's Eli Gutman.

In other news Hapoel, Mahane Yehuda of the fifth division, advanced to the eighth round of the State Cup when they beat Second Division Ness Ziona 4-2 on penalties after 2-2 in extra time yesterday.

They will face a National League side in the next stage, on January 17.

Tote: 122 X21 2X1 XK1 X1X. Tote Plus: X X2 XK1 122 1X1 2X. ToteFelix: 4, 8, 10, 13, 15, 20, 25

Late Vikings FG nips Giants 23-22

New York blows nine-point lead in final 90 seconds to bow out of playoff opener

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (Reuters) - The Minnesota Vikings scored 10 points in the final 90 seconds to complete a stunning 23-22 comeback victory over the New York Giants yesterday in the opening game of the NFL playoffs.

Eddie Murray squeezed a 24-yard field inside the left upright with 10 seconds left to complete the Vikings' unlikely win and set up a National Football Conference semifinals battle against the 49ers next week in San Francisco.

The Giants looked like winners up until the last minutes of the game, holding a 22-13 lead as Minnesota took possession of the ball with 2:06 left at the New York 49 yard line.

With 1:30 left, Vikings quarterback Randall Cunningham, a Giant killer in his days with the Philadelphia Eagles, threw a 30-yard touchdown pass to Jake Reed to make it 22-20.

The Vikings recovered the ensuing sidekick as it bounced off usually sure-handed receiver Chris Calloway and Cunningham rallied Minnesota downfield, completing a key 30-yard pass up the middle of the field to Cris Carter.

A pass interference penalty against Phillip Sparks brought the ball inside the Giants 10 and the Vikings ran the ball into the middle of the field before Murray's winning field goal.

The victory snapped a six-game losing streak in playoff appearances by the Vikings.

The Giants dominated the first half of the NFC wildcard game, converting three Minnesota turnovers into nine points on their way to a 19-3 lead.

Minnesota closed the gap early in the third quarter when they recovered a fumble by running back Tiki Barber at the four yard line on the Giants' first possession of the half. Leroy Heard ran it in on the next play to make it 19-10.

The Vikings closed to 19-13 early in the fourth quarter but the Giants restored their nine-point lead with Brad Daluiso's fifth field of the game with 7:57 left.

But Minnesota saved their best for last, as Cunningham scrambled

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Giants' running back Tiki Barber (left) falls as he tries to catch a touchdown pass while Vikings' safety Robert Griffith defends during first-quarter action. Barber failed to hold onto the ball and the Giants had to settle for a field goal.

bled away from pressure to complete big passes to his talented receiving corps.

"I can't think of a greater group of players and coaches," said Minnesota head coach Dennis Green, whose team made the

post-season as a wild card team after posting a 9-7 record. "We never gave up. We fought to the finish."

"We did a great job of stopping the run in the second half. We had to make big plays. Jake

Reed made a big play. Chris Carter made a big play and we got a big onside kick." Said Giants coach Jim Fassel, who was named Coach of the Year after steering New York to the NFC East title with a 10-5-1 record, said: "The

NFL Playoff Glance Wild Cards table with columns for Team, Record, and other stats.

Vikings just kept on fighting, never quit. "We made mistakes at the end. It's a bitter pill to swallow. But I'm very proud of this football team. I'm just sorry it ended this way."



GOAL ALL THE WAY - Andy Cole chips the ball from long range to score Manchester United's second goal.

Man Utd forge ahead, Collymore stuns Spurs

LONDON (Reuters) - Champions Manchester United stroled to a 2-0 win over Everton and opened a six-point lead in the premier league on Friday.

Blackburn Rovers stayed second on 40 points after a 0-0 draw at Sheffield Wednesday while Chelsea were a point behind in third place, after a mistake by defender Frank Sinclair gave Wimbledon a 1-1 reward.

But the biggest surprise of the day was provided by Aston Villa's Stan Collymore, who scored twice in his club's 4-1 rout of Tottenham Hotspur after being headed off by police with assault on Wednesday.

The goals doubled the out-of-form striker's previous tally of two in 21 matches since he joined Villa from Liverpool for £7 million at the start of the season.

United's Norwegian defender Henning Berg beat compatriot Thomas Myhre in the Everton match with a 14th minute header - his first league goal for the leaders and the first Myhre had conceded in English soccer.

Striker Andy Cole made it 2-0 in the 35th with a delightful chip for his 12th league goal.

United, with Danish goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel absent with influenza and striker Teddy Sheringham on the bench with winger Ryan Giggs, should have scored far more against a side that had just one shot on goal.

Everton, two points off the bottom, replaced injured captain Dave Watson with 16-year-old defender Francis Jeffers in the second half.

It was a baptism of fire yet Everton, with eight first team regulars absent and a sprinkling of teenagers making up the ranks, kept the goal tally down.

"We are a depleted squad," said a "desperately disappointed" manager Howard Kendall said. "We were asking boys to do a man's job which didn't work out."

Cole picked up his third booking in three matches while Czech Karel Poborsky was booked for diving on a day when none of the bottom eight clubs won.

Liverpool moved up to fourth place on 34 points, ahead of Leeds on goal difference, after beating the fifth-placed side 3-1 at Anfield.

Michael Owen opened the scoring in the 46th minute and Robbie Fowler followed with two more. Leeds grabbed an 84th minute consolation goal through Alf Inge Haaland.

Blackburn manager Roy Hodgson declared himself happy with his draw but Chelsea probably felt sicker than most after Sinclair's poor back pass gifted Wimbledon's Michael Hughes an equalizer in the 28th minute.

Italian Gianluca Vialli had put Chelsea ahead on eight minutes

from close range, after a fine pass from Norwegian Tore Andre Flo, for his 12th goal of the season.

"In the second half there was not a lot between the sides and it's not often you can come to Chelsea and say that," said Wimbledon manager Joe Kinnear.

Arsenal ended their recent indifferent run with a 2-1 win at home to Leicester to stay sixth.

But French manager Arsene Wenger had a nervous time as his side buckled under a Leicester fightback. Former England captain David Platt flicked in the opening goal in the 36th minute with a close range header off a free kick from Dennis Bergkamp.

Leicester captain Steve Walsh provided the second with a spectacular 56th minute own goal, the ball ballooning off his knee high into the air and then down behind goalkeeper Kasey Keller and into the net.

Newcastle had David Batty dismissed and dropped to 10th after losing 1-0 at Derby through a fourth minute penalty from Italian Stefano Erانی.

Neil Lennon pulled a goal back for Leicester in the 77th after England goalkeeper David Seaman going through a hesitant patch of form, made a mistake.

Tottenham, Arsenal's opponents in the North London derby today, were still without the returning Juergen Klinsmann and were ripped apart at Villa Park.

Collymore scored in the 82nd and 89th but also missed another gaping chance. Mark Draper scored Villa's other goals while Colin Calderwood hit Spurs' goal in the 59th after the ball appeared to go in off his arm.

Steve Ham moved up to eighth place on 23 points, after beating Coventry 1-0 for their eighth win in nine league matches at home this season.

Newcastle had David Batty dismissed and dropped to 10th after losing 1-0 at Derby through a fourth minute penalty from Italian Stefano Erani.

Crystal Palace drew 1-1 at home to Southampton after Israel's Itzik Zohar missed a penalty for Palace.

At the bottom, Barnsley picked up a precious point at Bolton in a 1-1 draw they could have won.

In Scotland yesterday, Rangers striker Marco Negri scored twice, including his 30th goal in 39 league games, to seal a 4-1 victory over Dundee United as the champions increased their premier division lead.

Celtic, second at start of play, were beaten 1-0 at St Johnstone while Hearts came away from Dunfermline with a 3-1 victory. Rangers, bidding for a record 10th successive title, have 42 points with Hearts second on 40 and Celtic on 38.

Rangers from a free-kick and, 60 seconds later, crossed for Alex Cleland to head home.

Dundee United have beaten Rangers twice this season but Negri's first goal in the 82nd minute snuffed out their last hopes.

The Italian scored a penalty in the final seconds to become the quickest player to reach 30 goals in Scotland since the 1933-34 season.

Rangers have scored 51 goals in the league this season.

Celtic missed their top-scoring striker Henrik Larsson at St Johnstone, who ran out deserved 1-0 winners thanks to a soft George O'Boyle goal midway through the second half.

Hearts achieved their 13th victory of the season at Dunfermline who lost Andy Smith, sent off for his second bookable offence, in the 52nd minute.

Bottom club Aberdeen gained only their fifth league victory of the past 12 months with an emphatic 3-0 home defeat of Motherwell.

The whole Aberdeen squad, except two players, had been put up for sale by new manager Alex Miller before Christmas and the shock seemed to pay dividends.

Hibernian are now bottom after losing 1-0 to Kilmarnock.

Premier League table with columns for Team, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts.

Division One table with columns for Team, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts.

Division Two table with columns for Team, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts.

Division Three table with columns for Team, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts.

Scottish Premier League table with columns for Team, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts.

Scottish Championship table with columns for Team, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts.

POST M: I will